

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rtn. Savita Bhauwala  
Director, Community Service

Rtn. Meera Deshpande  
President Nominee &  
Director, International Service

Rtn. Manish Bojjawar  
Director, Youth Service

Rtn. Nikhil Naniah  
Sergeant at Arms

Rtn. Sushil Agarwal  
Bulletin Editor

Rtn. Nawal Kishore Saraf  
Club Counsellor

## FAMILY MEETING



### Dhol Baje: "A Red and White Bengali Durga puja theme family meet with dinner"

The air was electric with anticipation as the community gathered for the most awaited family event of the year, which had 100+ participants. This year's theme was "Dhol Baje," a stunning red and white Bengali-themed celebration that promised to transport attendees to the heart of Kolkata.

As guests entered the venue, SNN Clermont Clubhouse, they were struck by the striking red and white decorations, which seemed to reverberate with the energy of Bengal. Red and white fabric draped the walls, while intricate Bengali motifs and patterns adorned the pillars.

The guests, dressed in their finest red and white attire, added to the festive atmosphere. Women wore stunning red and white saris, their hair adorned with fragrant flowers, while men donned crisp white kurtas with red dupattas (scarves).

The cultural programs began with the traditional "Mahishasur Mardini Stotram" followed by mesmerizing performances of Bengali songs and dances. The highlight of the

evening was the invocation dance and a thrilling Dhunuchi dance, where performers swayed to the rhythm of drums, their dhunuchis (earthen pots) filled with burning incense sticks.

The aroma of traditional Bengali cuisine wafted through the air, tantalizing the taste buds of the guests. The menu featured an array of delicious dishes, including special Kolkata toast, Chholar daal and mishti doi (sweet curd).

As the evening progressed, the gathering transformed into a warm community reunion. Friends and family reunited, sharing stories and laughter. A lucky dip brought smiles on the few fortunate faces.

As the night drew to a close, the red and white themed Durga Puja celebration came to an end, leaving behind memories of a lifetime. The community bid farewell to Goddess Durga, promising to reunite next year, with the same fervor and enthusiasm.

Shubho Bijoya! Happy Vijaya Dashami!

Rtn. Neeta Agarwal

WE MEET FRIDAY 7pm at  
Holiday Inn Bengaluru Racecourse





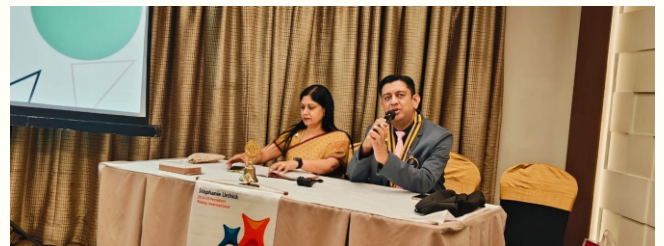
## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The **First General Assembly for the Rotary Year 2024-25** was held on 18th Oct, 24 at Hotel Adarsh Hamilton.

President Rtn. Siddharth Hamirwasia welcomed all the members and requested the Directors to present their reports. Club Service Director Rtn. Narayan Gupta and Community Service Director Rtn. Savita Bhauwala presented their reports and the upcoming activities planned for the rest of the year. Membership Development Chairman Rtn. Kamal Karnani gave an update on the new members who were inducted. In the absence of the other directors, Club Secretary Rtn. Lalana Murthy presented the

reports on Vocational Service, International Service and Youth Service. The Club's Statement of Accounts was presented by Club Treasurer Rtn. Sanjay Kedia. Rtn. Nawal K Saraf presented the Audited Financials of the Trust Account the Club Statement of Accounts for the previous year and the Trust Accounts for the first quarter of the RY 2024-25. Club Service Director Rtn. Narayan Gupta was presented with the PHF pin for his contribution to TRF. Club Secretary Rtn. Lalana Murthy proposed the formal Vote of Thanks followed by fellowship and dinner.

**Rtn. Lalana Murthy**





## WORLD POLIO DAY CELEBRATION BY ROTARY DISTRICT 3192

Rotary District 3192 commemorated **World Polio Day** on October 24, 2024, with a Walkathon from Freedom Park to Vidhana Soudha. The event was inaugurated by Rtn. Mahadev Prasad NS- District Governor 2024-25.

Rotary Bangalore Junction actively participated in the event, with many Rotarians from the club in attendance, including President Siddarth Hamirwasia, Secretary Lalana Murthy, Lt. Governor Rtn. BK Krishnamurthy, Rtn. Vikash Agarwal, and Rtn. Bankat Bhandari.



## DIWALI SWEETS TO JAWANS

On the occasion of Diwali, 7000 kgs of sweets were sent by Rotarians for our Jawans serving in Borders.

It was flagged off by the Governor of Punjab and UT Chandigarh, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria on 22nd October, 24 at Chandigarh. Present on the occasion were our Past RI President Rajendra K Saboo, District Governor, PDG, Rotary Club Chandigarh President and Rotarians.

This is the eighth year that Rotarians have been contributing funds to buy mithai with the help of the Indian army and Indian Air Force.

RBJ was an active participant in this noble cause. We collected contributions from members for nearly 650 kg of sweets. In the Press Release, the role of Rotary Bangalore Junction has been recognized.



## THE ICGF

The ICGF (Inter City General Forum) on Youth and International Services "Prerana" was held on 26th October 2024 at Palace Grounds, Bangalore.

This event felt like a family gathering, as it was hosted by **RBJ** under the chairmanship of **PP Rtn. Shankar Lal Agarwal**. It was well-attended by Rotarians and Anns from our club.

Rtn. Mudita Das, who attended the ICGF for the first time, was pleasantly surprised when a birthday cake was arranged in her honor for the occasion.

President Rtn. Siddarth Hamirwasia expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Chairman Rtn. Shankar Lal Agarwal, Counselor Rtn. Nawal Saraf, and all the members who volunteered and attended the event. He also extended special thanks to Rtn. Rangacharyulu, Rtn. Sanjay Jalan, Rtn. Sundar Somani, Rtn. Mahesh Tayal, and Rtn. Vineet Tondon for their generous sponsorship of the event.

Rtn. Mahadev Prasad NS, District Governor of District 3192, along with other members of the District, commended the excellent arrangements made by RBJ, which contributed to the success of the event.





## NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

### A Legacy of Service, A Lifetime of Friendship

Rotary's journey began with one man's vision:  
Paul Harris. February 23, 1905, Chicago.

A dream to unite diverse minds, build lasting friendships, and serve humanity.

Today, Rotary is a global force for good, with a legacy of transformative impact:

- Polio cases reduced by 99% since 1988
- Near-eradication of polio
- Life-saving disaster relief efforts worldwide
- Empowering education and healthcare initiatives
- Promoting peace and resolving conflict

Our commitment endures, grounded in service:

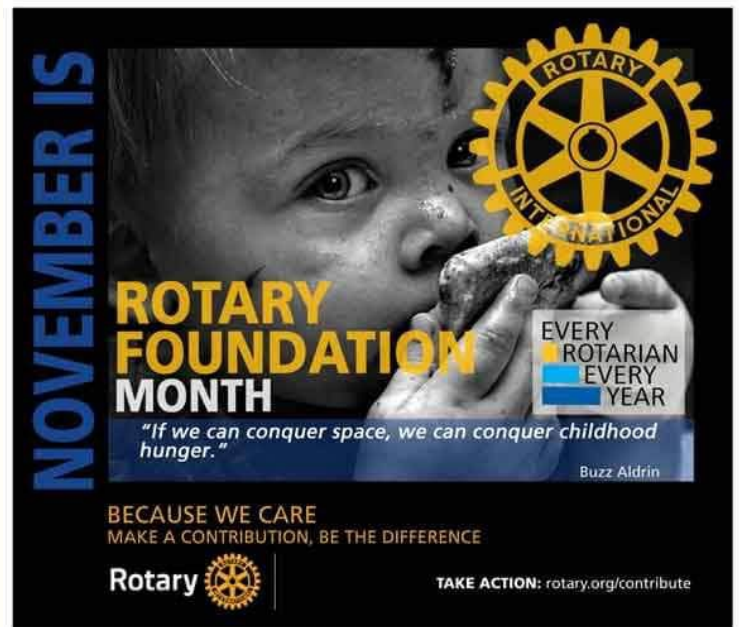
- Transforming lives
- Unifying communities
- Inspiring hope

Paul Harris' vision lives on through us — people dedicated to service above self.

### Join hands with us. Together, we can make a difference.

Your donation to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) brings smiles to those in need and helps create lasting change.

By supporting our efforts, you can help our club achieve the goal of



becoming a 100% Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) Club — a powerful symbol of our collective impact.

Together, we continue to build a legacy of service, friendship, and hope.

**Rtn. Meera Deshpande**

Director- International Services

## BANGALORE TO CHICAGO JOURNEY

### Our AKS Experience

When we first decided to travel to Chicago for the Arch Klumph Society (AKS) event, it felt like we had plenty of time to prepare. But as always, time flew by, and before we knew it, our departure day was just around the corner. Then, just four days before our scheduled flight, we received an email from the airline informing us that our flight had been canceled.

At first, we weren't sure what to do, but as they say, when one door closes, another opens. Without hesitation, we quickly booked

tickets on another flight. The new flight was comfortable, although the short layover was a bit of a challenge. Thankfully, everything went smoothly, and soon we found ourselves landing in Chicago.

Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted by a driver arranged by Rotary, who picked us up in a beautiful limousine and drove us to the hotel. Rotary had already booked our accommodation, making everything easy and stress-free.

On October 10th, Rotary organized a special tour for all the Rotarians who had arrived from around the world. It was incredi-





ble to meet people from so many different countries, all brought together by a shared commitment to service. This sense of unity and fellowship was truly inspiring.

The next day, October 11th, we were taken for the tour of rotary headquarters and participated in rehearsals for the AKS induction ceremony. Official photos were taken for AKS wall. Effort and dedication the Rotary International team put into making sure everything was perfect filled us with pride. They were not only professional but also incredibly kind, humble, and cooperative—a reflection of Rotary's spirit.

October 12th was the big day: the induction ceremony. It was organized beautifully. We, the AKS members, were led in a grand procession by Secretary General (CEO) of RI to our reserved seats. The entire ceremony was conducted with such care, as each member was recognized individually with honor and patience. It was a deeply humbling experience to be part of something so meaningful.

After the ceremony, a photo session was arranged with the Rotary International President, President-elect, President-nominee, Trustees, board of directors and the Chair of The Rotary Foundation. We then enjoyed a delightful lunch where we had more opportunities to meet and interact with fellow Rotarians and RI board and trust members.

Throughout the three-day event, Rotary ensured that every detail was taken care of. Lunches, coffee breaks, and even a special sit down cocktail dinner on the evening of October 12th was arranged for AKS inductees along with board and trust members. The planning was impeccable, allowing us to relax and fully enjoy the experience.

Chicago itself was breathtaking, with its beautiful greenery, vibrant fall colors, and houses decorated for Halloween. The city's charm added an extra layer of magic to our stay.

Finally, on October 13th, it was time to say goodbye. Transportation by limousine was arranged to take us to the airport, bringing our journey to a close.

It was a wonderfully organized and memorable experience, filled with moments of connection, celebration, and gratitude. We left Chicago with our hearts full, proud to be part of the Rotary family and the Arch Klumph Society.

#### **Rtn. Milind & Rtn. Meera Deshpande**

For the benefit of those who have recently joined, The Arch Klumph Society (AKS) recognizes The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors—those who have contributed **\$250,000** or more during their lifetime.

It is with great pride that we announce **Rtn. Milind & Rtn. Meera Deshpande and Rtn. Velu Pethi & Rtn. Reshma** as members of the prestigious Arch Klumph Society. Their generosity is a true testament to their commitment to Rotary's mission.

Did you know that **Mr. Ratan Tata** was also a member of the Arch Klumph Society? He was an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Bombay. In 2017, he became an AKS member, and handed over a single cheque of \$250,000 from the Tata Education and Development Trust.

#### **Bulletin Editor - Crossing**

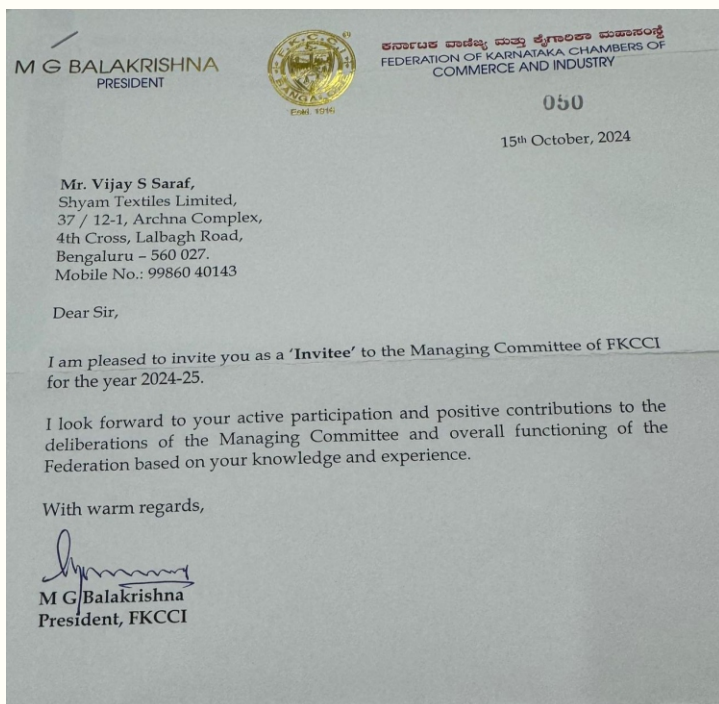




## ROTARIAN IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to **PP Rtn. Vijay Saraf** for being part of the management committee of The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI)

This prestigious recognition is a testament to your outstanding leadership, dedication, and contribution to both the Rotary community and the business sector. We wish you continued success in this new role and are confident you will make a meaningful and lasting impact.



## LEARN KANNADA STEP BY STEP

Prashne: Rotary Samstheya mukhya seva kshetragalu yaavuvu ?  
Question: What are the core areas of services in Rotary ?

Uttara: Samstheya mukhya Seva kshetragalu,

1. Shanthige uttejana,
2. Roga nivarane,
3. Neeru mattu swachathe,
4. Shikshanakke bembala,
5. Staleeya arthikathege uttejana haagu,
6. Parisara Samrakshane agive.

Answer: The core areas of services are,

1. Promoting Peace,
2. Fighting Disease,
3. Clean Water and Sanitation,
4. Supporting Education,
5. Growing Local Economies and ,
6. Protecting the Environment.

**Rtn. Vidya Suresh Arekere**

## A TRIBUTE

### to Loving Sharma ji on his birthday

They say 'Age is only a number'. Many of us have seen the proof of the saying in the life of one person - Our beloved **Sharma ji**.

His smile lit up just not his face but everyone around.

He always said that his role as the **Editor of Crossing** made him feel younger.

His passion to learn and share was legendary.

His will to live on his own terms, defying old age, illness and with that energy that was infectious was an experience none of us can forget.

He regaled us with his life experiences which was always interesting.

He made it a point to know his Rotary and ensured that it is shared with all of us, enriching us and feeling that sense of pride to be a part of the movement ( He used to always say that Rotary is no longer an organization. It is a movement ).

He loved and missed his wife and always made it a point to remember her at all moments in his life.

He had a loving son and daughter, a doting daughter-in-law and such lovely grandchildren who made his life a joy.

For us Rotarians, He was a friend with whom we could sip a beer, a senior colleague who dressed nattily, could keep us engaged, an encyclopedia of Rotary information and above all - that beaming, fun-filled human being who gave us the meaning and essence of life through his living it.

Rtn. M.P.Krishnan

For the benefit of our newer members, **Sharma Ji** has been the Editor of **Crossing** since the inception of Rotary Bangalore Junction. He held the role with dedication until 2021, when health issues forced him to step down, ending his long passion for editing Crossing. Before leaving, he entrusted the editorship to his talented and trusted fellow **Rtn. Lalana Murthy**, who served from 2021 to 2024 and fully embraced the role with exceptional dedication and excellence.

Today, every issue you read is built on the strong foundation he established through his invaluable contributions. I can only hope to uphold his legacy as we move forward.

**Bulletin Editor-Crossing**





# Greetings

## Birthday's

Rtn. Ramesh Bhat	01-Nov
Rtn. Bimal Kumar Goenka	03-Nov
Rtn. Ramesh Kumar Jalan	07-Nov
Rtn. Sanjay Kedia	09-Nov
Rtn. Raj Agarwal	12-Nov
Rtn. Siddarth Hamirwasia	13-Nov
Rtn. Anil Chowdhary	14-Nov
Rtn. Mahesh Agarwal	19-Nov
Rtn. Dr Srikanth V	21-Nov
Rtn. Yogesh Tulsyan	21-Nov

Ann.Chanda Khemka	01-Nov
Ann.Neha Jain	08-Nov
Ann.Sreenath Shobha	09-Nov
Ann.Aastha Garg	09-Nov
Mr. Anil Baid	10-Nov
Ann.Bharati Tayal	21-Nov
Ann.Aruna Bajaj	27-Nov
Ann.Vardhini Parvathi	29-Nov

## Wedding Anniversary

Rtn. Amit Garga & Ann.Aastha Garg	19-Nov
Rtn. Sanjay Kedia & Ann. Rekha Kedia	19-Nov
Rtn. Rajiv Khanna & Ann. Priya Khanna	20-Nov
Rtn. Rtn. Murali Agrawal & Ann. Aditi Agarwal	22-Nov
Rtn. Vinod Kumar & Ann. Sarita Nahata	24-Nov
Rtn. Sanjay Jalan & Ann. Pooja Jalan	26-Nov
Rtn. Santosh Kumar Goenka & Ann. Uma Goenka	27-Nov
Rtn. Neeta Agarwal & Mr. Praveen Agarwal	28-Nov
Rtn. Dilip Kumar Churiwal & Ann. Sabitha	29-Nov
Rtn. Paresh Srivastava & Ann. Meghna Srivastava	30-Nov
Rtn. Pradeep Dhandhania & Rtn. Monalisa	30-Nov
Rtn. Rajesh Agarwal (Sanwaria) & Ann. Hemalata Agarwal	30-Nov

## IRON MAN 70.3

I'm a plastic surgeon by profession, but I was never an athlete in my younger years. As I approached my **50th birthday**, I stumbled upon the Ironman challenge and was immediately captivated. Wanting to mark this milestone in a truly memorable way, I decided to take on the **Ironman 70.3**—a triathlon that would push me far beyond my comfort zone.

The Ironman 70.3 is a test of endurance, requiring participants to complete 70.3 miles (113 kilometers) in a single day, within a time limit of 8 hours and 30 minutes. The race consists of a 1.9 km swim in open water, a 90 km bike ride, and a 21 km run. For someone with no open water swimming experience, this challenge felt like a monumental challenge. I committed to training, first in the pool and then in open water, gradually building up the stamina and confidence I'd need to complete the race.

In 2019, at the age of 50, I successfully completed my first-ever Ironman 70.3 in Goa. Since then, I've participated in four more events, with the most recent being in October of this year. Ironman races are as much a mental challenge as they are a physical one. In fact, I've come to believe that endurance sports are often more about mastering the mind than pushing the body to its limits. This year, I was thrilled to finish the race comfortably, especially after the tough experience of last year, when I fractured my foot and had to limp my way to the finish line, crossing 15 minutes past the cutoff time. It was a tough blow, both physically and emotionally. But finishing this year's race, knowing I had overcome that setback, felt incredibly satisfying. It was not just a physical triumph—it was a victory over the disappointment and frustration I'd carried with me from the previous year.

One of the greatest accomplishments for me has been learning to swim at 50. It's a reminder that it's never too late to push yourself to learn something new and take on a challenge that seems impossible. Life doesn't have an age limit for growth—it's all about embracing new experiences and continuing to evolve.

I live by the mantra, **"Make every day less ordinary."** Life is about embracing challenges, and I'm proof that with determination and the right mindset, you can achieve anything - at any age.

### Rtn. Dr Srikanth V

Congratulations on an outstanding accomplishment!

**At 50, taking on the Ironman 70.3** is a truly impressive milestone. As a dedicated doctor, you've spent your career caring for others, but this challenge shows your personal strength and commitment to pushing your own limits. You've proven that age is no barrier to pursuing new goals and rising to any challenge. Well done, and thank you for setting such a powerful example for us all! We are proud of you **Dr.Srikanth**.

### Bulletin Editor-Crossing

