

THE GATEWAY



Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

VOLUME 67 ISSUE NO. 37 MARCH 31, 2026

Celebrating 96 Years of Service

This Tuesday, March 31st

In Conversation: Arundhathi Subramaniam, Shernaz Patel and Anahita Uberoi on The Gallery of Upside-Down Women

UPCOMING

April 4th, Saturday
Launch of Renovated **Dental Clinic** at Cotton Green

April 5th, Sunday
Rotary Club of Bombay
Pickleball Tournament.

April 7th, Tuesday meeting
Rotary Club of Bombay Uma Jain Award for Young Woman Achiever to **Mira Kapoor** in conversation with Rtn. Priya Tanna.

April 11th, Saturday
PE Manish Reshamwala invites all for a session for Incoming Directors, Chairs and Co-chairs and members.

April 21st, Tuesday meeting
Former Editor of Femina Ms. Sathya Saran in conversation with Mr. Rakesh Maria on the Book- 'When It All Began: The Untold Stories of the Underworld'

April 28th, Tuesday meeting
Kalpana Sham Munshi Award for Excellence in Performing Arts & Culture to Mr. Anupam Kher

OFFICIAL CLUB VISIT BY DG DR. MANISH MOTWANI



Good afternoon, friends. What a pleasure it is to be here in this lovely Club for the Official Club Visit, which is not just my responsibility, but also a pleasure. Friends, Will Durant said, and I quote, we are what we repeatedly do. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not just a one-off act; it becomes a habit.

Friends, in my practice as a bariatric surgeon, we see this truth every day, 365 days a year, in the operating theatre. We do not just try to do good. We follow the best practices. We ensure that we have all our steps in place, protocols in place, and then, eventually, what we find is we are there to give results. Consistency comes when we repeatedly do the best things.

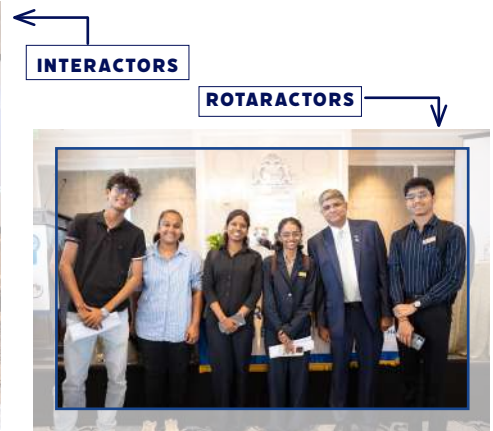
Standing here, my friends, in the Rotary Club of Bombay, a Club chartered in 1929, what we have seen is that consistency, compassion, and excellence have become a habit for this Club, not just over one year, two years, or 10 years, but almost a century. Friends, a big round of applause to each one of you. Thank you so much, my friends, for doing so much for Rotary, for doing so much for the community.

Inspired President Bimal, inspired Club Honorary Secretary Farhat, Assistant Governor today Kunjan, our senior Past Governor and Past TRF Trustee Gulamji, District Learning

Facilitator and Past Governor Sandip, our Associate District Secretary for District Leadership Plan Ajit Dubey, Rotarians, Inner Wheel members, Rotaractors, Interactors, and my dear friends, it is an absolute pleasure to be here today on this particular day when I have come here for a purpose.

I have come here for the Official Club Visit, and this is not a Club where we have come to evaluate performance. This is a Club where we have come primarily to see how the Rotary Club of Bombay can participate with Rotary District 3141 to ensure the district performs better and is taken to the next level. So, thank you so much, friends, for the warm hospitality and the welcome here.

But, friends, when we come for an Official Club Visit, it comes with a lot of responsibilities. Am I right, Satyan? You have been through this. There are certain important things that we need to do, and it is these practices that have ensured that Rotary, over so many years and decades, has fulfilled the task that is expected of it. Over so many years, Rotary has sustained itself, grown, and impacted communities because of certain administrative protocols. And yes, these administrative protocols are supposed to be measured in every Club.



Friends, it is said that if it cannot be measured, it cannot be improved. I am so happy to say that the OCV team of the Club, right from President Bimal, Honorary Secretary Farhat, and the entire team responsible for this, right from your charter to your audit reports to your trust papers to your compliances, this Club is 100 per cent compliant. Thank you so much, team for leading by example. This applause, my friends, is not just because they (OCV team) have done things so well. It is because the team have to live up to the expectations that the Rotary Club of Bombay has of them. Thank you so much, team for doing everything in such a diligent manner that we are all proud of you.

Friends, when it comes to paperwork, yes, we need to do a lot of important things that show the level of integrity among all of us. But what comes beyond that is also to evaluate performance. At the Rotary Club of Bombay, we do not come to see whether you are performing well or not. My purpose in coming here to see the performance is to understand whether my President Bimal is performing to his capacity. Am I right, Aradhana? So the first thing that I asked her was how much time he spends at home. Because if she says he is spending more time at home, that means he is not doing as much as he is supposed to. I got a back-end report which says that yes, he is hardly seen at home. So thank you so much.

But friends, the Club has been executing some lovely projects, and I feel you all do not just do projects, you create institutions. Whether it is the Bhavishya Yaan project, the Talwada Medical Centre, the paediatric heart surgeries that you do, the IT labs that you create, or the Taparia School and the college that you are working on, each and every project that you undertake is not for a year. This is a club that does projects year after year, creates continuity, and creates impact.

One thing more peculiar, my friends, is that while we create a large number of continuity projects and continue them, here we also have a president who, like every year, has come up with some brilliant new projects. I am sure those projects will also be continued over a period of time, like the paediatric cancer treatment project, the paediatric neurosurgery projects that are going to come up, the Taparia new wing in the college, and the Dharamshala 2.0. Everything that you do comes with intense commitment.

The CLP that functions in this Club ensures that every member in the committee, whether a chair, vice-chair, or member, takes responsibility and ensures that the project is taken to its logical conclusion. I was there the other day when Miral was showing us around the Dharamshala project during your third anniversary celebration. Every sentence he spoke reflected a sense of ownership, saying “my Dharamshala, my doctors, my patients”. That sense of belonging was so evident. I was truly happy and thrilled, because if each one of us has that kind of responsibility towards a project, then the project is bound to grow.

So, friends, this was about what you all have been doing and the type of projects, and to give it a value, Rs. 14.92 crores have already been contributed, and another Rs. 14 crores are to be contributed in this very year. That makes Rs. 28.92 crores of projects. I think, Sandip, Gulamji, you are only about Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 crores short of what you could eventually achieve. This is a question mark; I need an answer. Vineet, you will do your best. And your best is much bigger than what I have quoted, so that is fine.

But friends, the only concern for me was that while we are doing around Rs. 28.92 crores of projects completely from this Club, I was surprised that the total was only \$347,000 through the Foundation. I think we need to relook at that, Nirav. There are certain

developments, and I am very happy to share some internal news. We are doing another Rs. 7.5 crores through the Foundation this month and possibly another Rs. 1.5 crores through the Foundation next year. Rotary Club of Bombay, staying true to the reputation of this wonderful Club, is again going to be a \$1,000,000 Club this year. Thank you so much.

But friends, looking at the size of the Club and the kind of people we have, what a governor is most pleased with, more than the Foundation, at least a person like me, is membership. I am so happy to say that we have increased from 368 members to 412 members in one Rotary year, 2025–26, adding so much value, experience, and energy to the Club. We are all so proud of you.

The Club has definitely performed extremely well, and I do not know if many of you are aware that the Club has contributed a total of \$8.8 million to the Rotary Foundation to date. We have around 14 Arch Klumph Society members, several major donors, and more than 312 Paul Harris Fellows from this club.

At this point of time, my friends, my simple request on behalf of Nirav and on behalf of Sandip and on behalf of Vijay Jatia ji, who have told me that one thing we are not currently into is that this Club is not a 100 per cent PHF club. If not now, then when? If not this Club, then which? Friends, a simple request to all of you, this is the Rotary Club of Bombay, which is going to lead the District, and which leads the District by example. If I have to go to other clubs and say...

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Creativity and Joy at Ananda Yaan

The Ananda Yaan Committee of the Rotary Club of Bombay extends its thanks to Nishkam Seva Trust for conducting an engaging craft session for members. The elders thoroughly

enjoyed creating small handmade gifts, which they were delighted to take home for their grandchildren, making the experience both creative and heartwarming.



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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY TUESDAY MEETINGS



President Bimal Mehta, IWC Bombay Hon. Secy. Ankita Bagri, IWC Bombay President Roopal Thakkar, DG Dr. Manish Motwani and Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal



New Rotarian Puneet Bhasin



New Rotarian Sonali Parikh



AG Kunjjaan Popat and DG Dr. Manish Motwani inaugurating RCB Annual Report with President Bimal Mehta, Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal and PE Manish Reshamwala



Rotarians Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala and PP Vineet Bhatnagar



Rotarians Mihir Mody, PE Manish Reshamwala & PP Nirav Shah



PE Manish Reshamwala, Rtn. Akhil Sanghi, PN Vineet Suchanti, PP Nirav Shah and IPP Satyan Israni



Rotarians Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal, Swati Jajodia, PP Vijaykumar Jatia, Pradeep Chinai, President Bimal Mehta, DG Dr. Manish Motwani, Sherebanu Baldiwala and Mudit Jatia



Rtn. Sanjay Damani, Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal, President Bimal Mehta, PP Vijay Kumar Jatia, DG Dr. Manish Motwani, Rtn. Rishabh Makhija and AG Kunjjaan Popat



Rotarians President Bimal Mehta, Puneet Bhasin, DG Dr. Manish Motwani and Sonali Parekh



President Bimal and First Lady Aradhana Mehta with DG Dr. Manish Motwani



Rtn. Uday Sanghani, Rtn. Miral Shah, PP Vineet Bhatnagar and Rtn. Paritosh Rungta

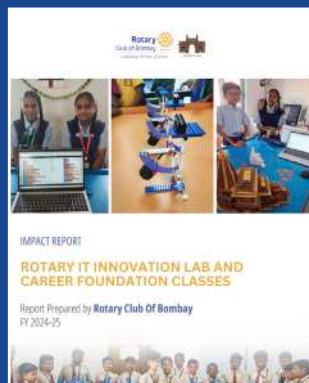
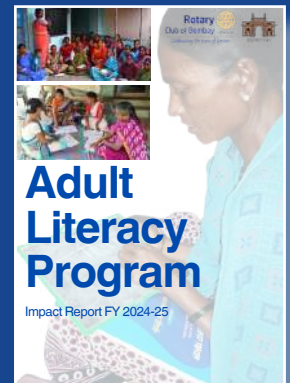
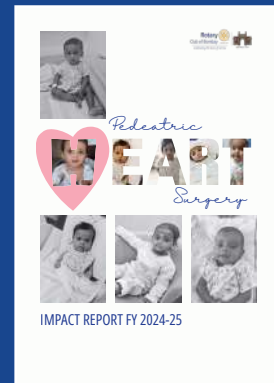
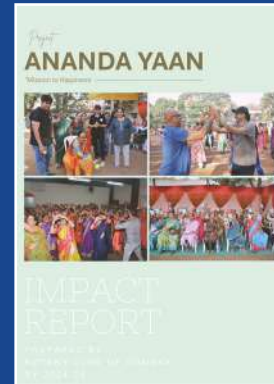
PROJECT IMPACT REPORTS

BY PRESIDENT BIMAL MEHTA, ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

This year, we have taken a significant step towards strengthening our relationship with those who make our work possible – our donors. I have initiated a proactive approach of sending detailed impact reports of our projects to every donor. These reports highlight how their contributions have been utilised and the tangible outcomes their generosity has enabled.

Transparency is not just a value we uphold; it is the foundation of trust. By sharing the story of every rupee spent and the lives it has touched, we reaffirm our commitment to accountability. These donor-specific reports are in addition to the independent impact assessments we already conduct for all our major projects, ensuring that every initiative we undertake meets the highest standards of efficiency and effectiveness.

Our aim is simple: to make our donors partners in change, not just contributors. When they see the difference they help create, their belief in our mission deepens, and together we can achieve far greater impact. This initiative is a key part of my vision for this year – to build enduring relationships based on transparency, trust and impact measurement



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Celebrating 97 Years of Service



THE BOMBAY COTTON MERCHANTS
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PRESIDENT BIMAL MEHTA, ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY
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THE LAUNCH OF THE

Renovated Dental Clinic

4 APRIL 2026 :: 10 AM – 11 AM

Dental Chair & X-Ray Unit
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Club of Bombay
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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The **RCB Sports Committee** invites all our members and their families to participate in the first ever RCB Pickleball Tournament!



APR 5, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sunset Courts
Ocean's Edge Pickleball Club
Jai Hind College

Register with:

Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani +91 98200 62442

Rtn. Moy Biswas (Chairman of the Sports Committee) +91 98200 51887

TRF DONOR RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION



PP NIRAV AND RTN. PTN. DEVINA SHAH
SWATI PIRAMAL ENDOWMENT FUND



RTN. DR. VIRAJ SANGHI
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RTN. ANITA PAYMASTER
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FIRST LADY ARADHANA MEHTA & PRESIDENT BIMAL MEHTA
MAJOR DONOR LEVEL ONE - CRYSTAL RECOGNITION



RTN. MUDIT JATIA
PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



IPP SATYAN ISRANI

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO IPP SATYAN ISRANI FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP, UNDER WHICH THE CLUB ACHIEVED THE 100 PER CENT FOUNDATION GIVING AND EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR (EREY) CLUB RECOGNITION, ALONG WITH SUPPORT TO END POLIO NOW.

HE ALSO CREATED A USD 25,000 ENDOWMENT ACROSS THREE YEARS IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER, PAST ROTARIAN SHIVKUMAR ISRANI, SETTING A MEANINGFUL EXAMPLE OF SERVICE AND LEGACY.

RCB HDFC TMC DHARAMSHALA MARKS THREE YEARS OF COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



On March 21st, 2026, the Rotary Club of Bombay HDFC TMC Dharamshala celebrated its 3rd anniversary, marking three impactful years of dedicated service to cancer patients and their families travelling to Mumbai for treatment at Tata Memorial Hospital.



The celebration was graced by Chief Guest, District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani (RID 3141), along with distinguished dignitaries from Rotary, HDFC, Tata and the philanthropic community. The occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on the Dharamshala's journey, recognise the efforts of its team and supporters, and reaffirm its commitment to compassionate care.



Located near Tata Memorial Hospital, the Dharamshala has become a vital support system for families arriving from distant regions who are often facing emotional and financial challenges. It offers safe, hygienic and affordable accommodation, enabling patients and caregivers to focus on treatment and recovery.



The facility features 100 fully furnished rooms equipped with essential amenities, kitchen facilities for self-cooking, and nutritious meals at highly subsidised rates. It also provides dedicated housekeeping services, round-the-clock security, patient ferry support for hospital visits, and prompt assistance during medical emergencies, ensuring a comfortable and secure environment.



Since its inception, the Dharamshala has made a significant impact. It has distributed 1,83,519 meals, accommodated 5,164 patients, and supported 4,735 patients through 1,267 ferry trips to the hospital.



Speaking on the occasion, Rtn. Miral Kilkilraj Shah, Chairperson, said that the Dharamshala is more than just accommodation. It is a compassionate support system where patients and families feel cared for and respected during challenging times. She reaffirmed the commitment to expanding the initiative with the continued support of the Rotary fraternity and donors.



The Rotary Club of Bombay expressed gratitude to its partners, donors and well-wishers whose contributions have helped the Dharamshala grow into a dependable support facility. The organisation remains committed to strengthening healthcare support initiatives through collaboration, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder access to treatment and care.

PAST ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT KALYAN BANERJEE VISITED THE ROTARY HDFC TMC DHARAMSHALA



Past Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee visited the Rotary HDFC TMC Dharamshala and was warmly welcomed by the Rotary Club of Bombay. During his visit, he interacted with patients, families and members, gaining insight into the facilities and services provided. The Dharamshala, located at Tata Memorial Hospital, continues to serve as a vital support system for those undergoing treatment. His presence and encouragement were deeply appreciated, reinforcing the importance of compassionate care and Rotary's commitment to supporting communities in need through meaningful and sustainable initiatives.



SUMMER CAMP AT BHAVISHYA YAAN G.K. MARG SCHOOL



An engaging summer camp is currently underway at G.K. Marg School, centred on building essential life skills through financial literacy and Funfair planning. Students across grades are actively participating in interactive, activity-based sessions.

Younger students (Std 1 to 4) are learning basic concepts of money, market vocabulary, and buying and selling through stories, role play, and creative exercises. Older students (Grades 5 to 8) are exploring topics such as savings, needs versus wants, and digital money through discussions, quizzes, bingo, and poster-making activities.

The camp effectively blends education with creativity, while fostering teamwork, confidence, and an early understanding of financial responsibility, culminating in preparations for the upcoming Funfair.



SAVE THE DATE



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DISTRICT 3141



DISTRICT 3141

**PRESIDENT ELECT
MANISH RESHAMWALA**

invites you to a session for
Incoming Directors, Chairs, Co-Chairs and Members
Rotary Year 2026 - 2027

to discover a year that celebrates

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APRIL **11** 9 AM - 5 PM

Harvard Business School Classroom,
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RCB INAUGURATES UPGRADED GOKHALE DIALYSIS CENTRE



On March 16th, 2026, the Rotary Club of Bombay inaugurated the upgraded Gokhale Dialysis Centre at Nana Palkar Smruti Samiti in Parel. The event marked a significant milestone in enhancing access to quality and affordable healthcare for the community.

The centre was inaugurated by Rtn. Azim Tapia of Amalfi Realty Pvt Ltd, along with Mrs. Nisreen Tapia and Mr. Zahid Tapia. The ceremony was attended by a distinguished gathering, including RCB President Bimal Mehta, ARRFC & PDG Sandip Agarwalla, Rtn. Swati Jajodia, PP Vineet Bhatnagar, Dr. Shrikant Badwe, Dr. Paresh Navalkar, Mr. Tejas Supekar, and Mr. Krishna Mahadik.

This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with Nana Palkar Smruti Samiti, is aimed at improving access to life-saving dialysis treatment for residents of Parel and nearby areas. The upgraded facility will significantly reduce the travel burden for patients requiring regular dialysis and ensure timely medical care. Importantly, all dialysis treatments at the centre will be provided free of cost to eligible patients under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, thereby easing financial strain and prioritising support for underserved and marginalised communities.

The centre has been strengthened with the installation of four state of the art dialysis machines, nine hospital beds, and four storage cabinets. These enhancements will enable efficient patient management and ensure high standards of treatment.

Nana Palkar Smruti Samiti continues to play a vital role in providing affordable medical aid and holistic support to patients, guided by its philosophy of service to patients. The Gokhale Dialysis Centre remains a cornerstone of its mission, offering critical renal care to those in need.

Expressing his gratitude, President Bimal Mehta highlighted that the project reflects the power of collaboration and the shared commitment of all partners. He acknowledged the generous contributions of donors and emphasised that the centre will provide invaluable, free of cost care to those who need it most.



ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY DIALYSIS CENTRES



Sr.No.	Centre / Location	Address	No. of Machines	Charges for Poor Patients
1	Aastha Hospital, Manor	First Floor, Rais Arcade, Palghar-Wada Road, Manor District Palghar 401403	3	Free
2	Platinum Hospital, Mulund	Neptune Colorscape, Dumping Rd, Siddharth Nagar, Mulund West, Mumbai 400080	2	Free
3	Sukhsagar Hitech Hospital (Rotary Dialysis Centre)	Ground Floor, Shrikrishna CHS, near Sankalp Hotel, Mahavir Nagar, Kandivali West, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400067	2	800
4	Shatabdi Hospital, Govandi (Rehbar Foundation)	Rehbar Foundation Malik Rakia Khatoon Dialysis Centre, 1st Flr. Shatabdi Hospital, Centenary Building, WTP Marg, Deonar, Govandi East, Mumbai 400088	3	Free
5	Shatabdi Hospital, Kandivali	Swami Vivekananda Rd, Kandivali, Fateh Baug, Kandivali West, Mumbai 400067	2	Free
6	Samarpan Dialysis & Thalassemia Centre, Ghatkopar	Aaradhya Edu-Health Centre, , H-wing, 3rd Flr., Aaradya One Earth, Naidu Colony, Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar East, Mumbai 400077	14	300
7	Lifeline Medicare Hospital, Charkop	Near Rustomjee Meridian, Charkop Gaon / Village, Kandivali West, Mumbai, 400067	10	300
8	Dr. M.L. Dhawale Memorial Trust Hospital, Palghar	Boisar Rd, Opp. S.T Workshop, Industrial Co-Op Estate, Palghar 401404	3	250
9	K.J. Somaiya Hospital & Research Centre, Sion, Mumbai	Somaiya Ayurvihar, Eastern Express Hwy, Sion East, Mumbai 400022	10	Free
10	Acharya Shri Ramesh Dialysis Centre, Andheri East, Mumbai	316 B-Wing, Dattani Plaza, near Safed Pool, Sakinaka, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri(East), Mumbai 400072	10	Free
11	Mallika Hospital, Jogeshwari	Sharma Estate, S V Road, Jogeshwari west, Mumbai Maharashtra 400102	6	Free
12	Rotary Yoda Dialysis Centre, Symbiosis University Hospital & Research Centre, Pune	Building #1, Mulshi Rd, Lavale, Pune 412115, Maharashtra	8	Free
13	Swami Shraddhanand Hospital, Vasal	Near Shankaracharya Samadhi Mandir Navale, Nirmal, Vasai (W, Vasai-Virar, Maharashtra 401304	6	Free
14	Adhikari Lifeline Hospital, Boisar	Adhikari Lifeline Hospital, Nagzari, Boisar	9	Free
15	Galaxy Superspeciality Hospital, Mulund	CTS No. 1124, Ambedkar Nagar, 90 Feet Road, Mulund East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400081	2	Free
16	Nana Palkar Smruti Samiti Gokhale Dialysis Center	9th floor, Sadan , 158, Rugna Seva Marg, near Nare Park, Sadan Marg, Parel, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400012	4	Free
17	Aarogyam Multi Speciality Hospital	2 nd & 3 rd flr, Kanchan Business Center, near Kalavati Mandir, Mahim Manor Road, Palghar West, Mumbai 401404	4	Free
18	Chavan Hospital (Parvatibai Chavan Charitable Trust)	Dattamandir Cross Road No-1, Lane Opp. L.I.C. Office Dahanukarwadi, Kandivali (West), Mumbai - 400067	5	Free

25 March 2026

To know more reach out to:

Rtn. Swati Jajodia +91 9821028587 swati@spentose.com

RCB INAUGURATES SKILLING CENTRE AT WADA



The Rotary Club of Bombay proudly inaugurated its Skilling Centre at Wada College of Management and Science in Wada, Palghar, marking a significant milestone in its continued commitment to youth empowerment and vocational excellence.

Established with the support of SpeEdLabs, the Skilling Centre will offer NISM-certified courses designed to enhance the employability of graduating students. These industry-recognised certifications aim to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional requirements, equipping students with practical financial knowledge and skills relevant to the capital markets and financial services sector. The initiative reflects Rotary's focus on education, skill development and economic empowerment, creating

sustainable pathways for improved career opportunities.

The project was made possible through the efforts of PDG Sandip Agarwalla, whose visionary leadership and guidance were instrumental, along with PP Vineet Bhatnagar, who conceptualised and drove the initiative. Valuable local coordination and support were provided by PP Shashank Thakare (RC Wada), ensuring its successful execution.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from Rotarians, faculty members and students. There was strong engagement from students keen to enrol in the certification programmes, active support from the college administration, and a shared commitment to skill-

based education and career readiness. The positive response highlighted the growing need for such initiatives in semi-urban regions.

The Skilling Centre is expected to significantly enhance student employability through certified training programmes aligned with industry needs. It also strengthens Rotary's role in community development and education, while creating a scalable model that can be replicated across the district.

Looking ahead, the Rotary Club of Bombay aims to expand this initiative by collaborating with more institutions to reach a wider student base and create long-term, sustainable impact.

- Rtn. Paritosh Rungta, Project Coordinator – Skilling Centre



IVDP - EMPOWERING VILLAGES THROUGH SOLAR WATER INITIATIVES

On March 22nd, 2026, marking World Water Day, the Rotary Club of Bombay inaugurated transformative drinking, domestic and irrigation water projects in two rural villages, Kasghar in Sapne Gram Panchayat and Savarkhand in Chikhale Gram Panchayat. This initiative was made possible through the generous support of Indian Oxides & Chemicals and Dai Ichi Karkaria Limited, with Chirag Rural Development Foundation serving as the on-ground implementation partner.

Kasghar, home to 151 residents across 32 farming families, has long depended on seasonal monsoon farming. With the installation of a 5 HP solar pumping system and 1,500 metres of pipeline, the village now has access to year-round solar lift irrigation, enabling cultivation across 68 acres of farmland. Farmers have been equipped with tertiary piping systems and trained by experts from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. Previously limited to cultivating 38.5 acres during monsoons, the community is now poised for significant agricultural growth.

To further enhance livelihoods and ecological balance, each farmer will receive 15 mango and 5 cashew saplings, contributing to agro-forestation and long-term income generation. Cold crates have also been provided to extend the shelf life of produce by maintaining temperatures 10 to 12 degrees cooler. Additionally, all households have been equipped with solar home lighting and water filters, while eight solar street lights have improved safety and visibility across village pathways. The formation of a water management committee, along with the principles of Bhudaan and Shramdaan, ensures strong community ownership and sustainability.

In Savarkhand, the project has transformed access to domestic water across four padas, Dhodepada,

Maghapada, Mathapada and Patilpada. A 5 HP solar pumping system now supplies water to six strategically located storage tanks, eliminating the need for women to traverse difficult terrain in search of water. Families have also received solar home lights and water filters, enhancing both safety and health, while 15 solar street lights have improved mobility after dusk.

A notable innovation in Savarkhand is the introduction of two solar-powered refrigeration units for local kirana stores. Equipped with lighting and fans, these units enable shopkeepers to extend business hours, improve customer access and increase income.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the power of aligning corporate purpose with community needs. By harnessing solar energy, the projects generate 19.64 megawatts of clean energy annually, avoid 18.5 metric tonnes of carbon emissions, provide access to 167,900 litres of pure drinking water each year, and save the equivalent of 392 trees.





AN UNFORGETTABLE PATAN EXPERIENCE

A veritable ‘feast’ for almost all the senses and, indeed, for the ‘grey cells’!

True to its name and spirit, the Heritage, Art & Culture Committee took us through a smorgasbord of wonderful, out-of-the-world experiences over a whirlwind three days of extended fellowship during the unforgettable Patan tour. Especially remarkable was having domain knowledge experts at all the places we visited, who took us through carefully curated ‘exclusive’ experiences everywhere, very different from the usual guided tour-style trips.

Led by Rtn. Aditya Somani, with the able support and backing of President Bimal Mehta, First Lady Aradhana Mehta, PP Vineet Bhatnagar, and Rtn. Renu Basu, it was truly out of this world—and that is, well, an understatement.

The entire programme was interestingly woven together, beginning with the conducted tour followed by a sumptuous lunch at the

heritage hotel, The House of MG, providing an auspicious start.

Thereafter, the nearly two-hour interaction with Bimal bhai Patel, the architect and the driving force behind the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor, Sabarmati Riverfront, and many other national projects of importance, was truly remarkable. He explained with passion and conviction about reviving rivers, heritage precincts, and buildings across India, along with several other unique initiatives. Among many others, Bimal bhai and his team are working on restoring the Mahatma Gandhi Ashram on the banks of the Sabarmati to its former glory of nearly 50 acres from the

currently truncated five-odd acres.

At the splendid dinner hosted by Rtn. Laxmi Maneklal and her husband, Ashutosh, in their palatial home, Mr. Abhay Mangaldas regaled us with how he painstakingly rebuilt his ancestral home The House of MG brick by brick. Along the way, he shared insights about the former French President François Mitterrand’s invaluable role in reviving heritage buildings in the old city, which eventually led to Ahmedabad being declared a Heritage City.

Mr. Mangaldas also fondly recalled the four pioneering textile tycoon families of the city—Sarabhai,





The Art of Creating a Legacy

As humans, we constantly seek to outlive ourselves and be remembered. For this reason, every civilisation attempts to express itself beautifully through literature, monuments, arts, and crafts. Humans work for functionality but strive for magnificence, wanting to leave behind thoughts, ideas, and creations as a legacy for posterity.

From 19th to 21st March 2026, Rotarians Aditya Somani and Renu Basu of the Heritage, Art and Culture Committee, in coordination with President Bimal Mehta, First Lady Aradhana Mehta, and PP Vineet Bhatnagar, led an exploratory tour of the UNESCO World Heritage City of Ahmedabad and the nearby Patan area. Attended by a group of 20 enthusiastic Rotarians, this intense three-day itinerary included travel to spectacular 11th-century Maru-Gurjara-styled structures of the Solanki dynasty in Patan and visits to historic buildings of the pre-Independence colonial period, as well as ongoing present-day conservation projects in the bustling city of Ahmedabad.

On the first evening of the trip, Rtn. Laxmi Maneklal and her gracious husband, Ashutosh, hosted a sumptuous fellowship dinner at their palatial home with endearing warmth and exemplary style. Here, Mr. Abhay Mangaldas informally recounted how his family's early 20th-century ancestral colonial mansion fell into ruins and deprivation in the 1970s, and his persevering journey to convert it into its present-day avatar of the stunning luxury boutique hotel, 'The House of MG', set within the 'Pols' (UNESCO-protected traditional residential quarters) of old Ahmedabad. His legacy was to recreate the grandeur and hospitality of his ancestors.

Earlier in the day, celebrated modern architect and conservationist Bimal Patel (known for the new Parliament buildings, Delhi, the restoration of the Varanasi Ghat area, etc.) welcomed Rotarians to his office overlooking the Sabarmati Riverfront. Gazing at his work from a balcony within his office, he elucidated his vision of 'building public spaces that outlive him' over undertaking works for private patrons. With great humility and candidness, Bimal Bhai confided that his projects were always arduous, requiring persistent coordination with locals as well as government



agencies. They extended over several decades, and for this he purposefully apprenticed young architects to continue in his footsteps.

The Sabarmati Riverfront project balanced conservation with functionality and aesthetics, as did the restoration of nearby buildings on the 50-acre reclaimed plot of Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram. His legacy was planning environmentally conscious public spaces for functionality, endurance, and aesthetics for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The next morning, at Patan, Dr. Kirit Mankodi, whose life's work involved documenting and leading the repairs to the spectacular Rani Ki Vav stepwell and the Modhera Sun Temple, explained the structures' architecture in relation to the religious and cultural significance of life in medieval India prior to the Mughal invasion. The prosperity of the Solanki dynasty in the 11th century enabled Queen Udayamati to build an impressive subterranean well structure with over 500 intricately carved sculptures based on Hindu scriptures and prevalent cultural preferences. The stepwell was her homage and act of public service for her deceased husband, King Bhimadeva I, to ensure his safe passage to heaven.

At Patola House in Patan, Savanbhai Salvi, descendant of Shilpguru Vinay Salvi, explained that his family has preserved the art of weaving a naturally dyed, double ikat traditional Patola saree for hundreds of years. Patola sarees take four to six months to weave, and the test of authenticity is that they should weigh about 500 grams and can be washed at home.



On the last day of the tour, at Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum, historian and curator Priyanka Kundu explained how, in 1956, Kasturbhai Lalbhai and Jain Acharya-muni (scholar-cum-saint) Puniyavijayaji donated rare, finely illustrated and unillustrated manuscripts, bronzes, coins, and cloth paintings from personal collections to set up a repository of Jain art and artefacts. Over time, the museum's collections expanded to include exquisite Pahari paintings based on Hindu ideology, as well as woodwork panels and marble statues donated by new patrons within the family.

Towards the end of the trip, there was a visit to Amdavad ni Gufa, cavernous, stark white, round structures with natural light openings. The interior walls and ceilings, sketched by the late M. F. Husain with life-size black-outlined figures and lines and later filled in with vibrant colours as per his signature style, were stunning to view. Husain Saheb used this space as a sanctuary when attending a legal case against him, and he too could not resist leaving behind his legacy.

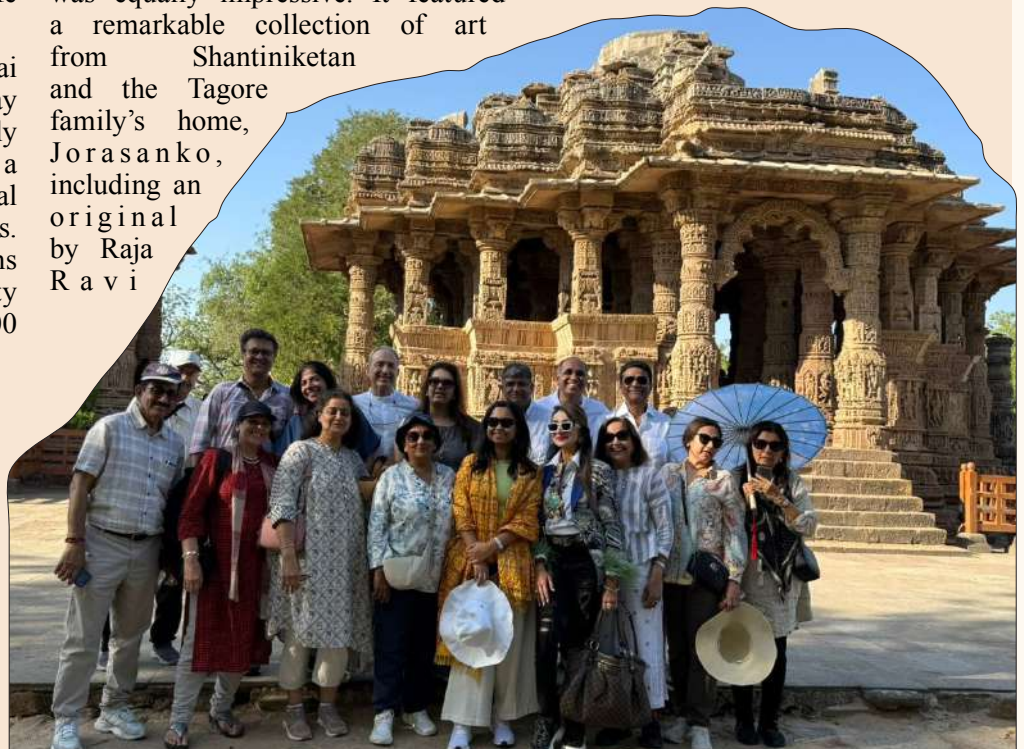
An exclusive walk around Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum and the recently established Indigo section by Arvind Mills CSR, with curator Aayushi, was equally impressive. It featured a remarkable collection of art from Shantiniketan and the Tagore family's home, Jorasanko, including an original by Raja Ravi

Varma, alongside national treasures by Nandlal Bose, Mukul Dey, and Gaganendranath Tagore.

Travel and stay for the Rani Ki Vav and Ahmedabad trip were planned in topmost style and comfort. The timings for all excursions were managed by Rtn. Aditya with clockwork precision, leaving no room for the slightest procrastination. Sightseeing was interspersed with timely stops to savour the local cuisine at carefully selected restaurants. After three days of action-packed travel together, numerous group photo opportunities (thanks to always "photo-ready" Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain), and fun-filled banter among Rotarians, the camaraderie within the group was tangible.

Kudos and a big thank you to Rtn. Aditya, Rtn. Renu, Rashmi, and First Lady Aradhana Mehta for planning this enriching experience and including a lovely coffee table book on Rani Ki Vav by Dr. Kirit Mankodi as take-away memorabilia. This committee has left a mark on the Rotary Club of Bombay's Fellowship activities — one members will not forget.

Rtn. Kajal Shah



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RCB IT INNOVATION LAB SHOWCASED AT RAJ BHAVAN

At Raj Bhavan on March 21st, 2026, the RCB IT Innovation Lab marked a proud and defining moment when it was visited by Honourble Vice President of India Mr. C. P. Radhakrishnan, alongside Hon'ble Governor Mr. Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Ministers Mr. Eknath Shinde and Ms. Sunetra Ajit Pawar.

Presented by the ITI faculty and students, the stall attracted significant attention from the dignitaries, who appreciated its emphasis on future-ready, industry-aligned skills and hands-on learning. The Hon'ble Vice President's remark, "This is what we need across our country," was both affirming and encouraging.

The interaction took place during the inaugural convocation of the Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skill University at the Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan. The occasion also provided an opportunity to reconnect with Ms. Manisha Verma, IAS, Vice Chancellor, and Ms. Apoorva Palkar, Founding Vice Chancellor, MSSU, whose leadership continues to inspire this vision.



STUDENT INNOVATION AT DAHANU ITI CENTRE

At the Innovation Lab, Dahanu Centre, student Rohan Varma (7th – Robotics) has demonstrated commendable initiative through a thoughtful project focused on improving accessibility in train transportation. He identified a key challenge faced by differently-abled individuals, particularly wheelchair users, who often struggle to board trains due to staircases.

To address this, Rohan designed a

train coach featuring an inclined door mechanism, enabling easier access for wheelchair users. While developing this project in the robotics lab, he applied concepts such as the wheel and axle, explaining their significance in transportation and incorporating the principle into the door hinge mechanism.

Over time, Rohan has shown consistent improvement in his

conceptual understanding, ability to identify problem statements, and implementation of ideas. Initially hesitant in explaining his work, he now presents his concepts with clarity and confidence.

His progress reflects a growing problem-solving mindset, and he is steadily developing into a more confident and capable learner.



RCB CELEBRATES MILESTONE IN ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME

The Rotary Club of Bombay held a graduation ceremony for its flagship Adult Literacy Programme at SK Agro Hotel in Vikramgad on March 22nd, 2026. With this batch, the Club proudly crossed a significant milestone, successfully training and certifying over 200,000 beneficiaries under the programme.

At the ceremony, Prerikas were felicitated with certificates from the Rotary Club of Bombay in recognition of their efforts in empowering community members with functional literacy. Beneficiaries were also awarded graduation certificates for successfully completing the course. Many participants came forward to share their personal experiences, highlighting the positive impact the programme has had on their daily lives

and livelihoods.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including Kalyan Banerjee, Past Rotary International President, and Prof Dr. Varsha Apte, Independent Director, CDSL, along with numerous beneficiaries and Prerikas.

The Adult Literacy Programme follows the Each One Teach Many model and is designed to make adults functionally literate within a period of three months. At a modest cost of INR 275 per person, the programme includes an NCERT-approved Primer Kit comprising books, flash cards, stationery, examination facilitation, graduation certificates and administrative support.

Learners acquire a working vocabulary of approximately 700 words, enabling

them to manage everyday tasks such as reading bus destination signs, filling bank forms and understanding newspaper headlines. They are also taught basic arithmetic skills necessary for maintaining household accounts. In addition, participants are introduced to the benefits of government schemes such as Aadhaar and various Pradhan Mantri Yojanas.

In a society challenged by poverty, caste inequality and limited access to education, the Adult Literacy Programme plays a crucial role in empowering individuals and communities. Completion of the programme leads to increased confidence, improved employment opportunities, and overall social upliftment, contributing to long-term positive change.





ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



April 1
Rtn. Paritosh
Rungta



April 6
Rtn. Suresh
Goklaney



April 2
Rtn. Ravi
Sheth



April 6
Rtn. Kalpana
Singhania



April 3
Hon. Rtn. Adi
Godrej

ANNIVERSARIES

April 1
Rtn. Ptn. Huzaifa &
Rtn. Samina Khorakiwala

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

March 31
Rtn. Ptn. Radhika Kaji
April 2
Rtn. Ptn. Amita Malkani
April 3
Rtn. Ptn. Dipti Goenka
April 4
Rtn. Ptn. Urvashi
Minawala
April 5
Rtn. Ptn. Vrishali Pispati
Rtn. Ptn. Radha Vora

NEXT TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL:

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY UMA JAIN AWARD FOR YOUNG WOMAN ACHIEVER TO MIRA KAPOOR IN CONVERSATION WITH RTN. PRIYA TANNA.



Mira Kapoor is a wellness entrepreneur whose journey is deeply rooted in early influences and

personal exploration. Inspired by her grandfather, a dedicated homeopath, she developed a lasting curiosity about holistic healing and the body's natural ability to restore balance. This foundation later led her to embrace Ayurveda, shaping her philosophy that true wellness begins from within. She is the founder of Dhun Wellness, India's first in-city wellness sanctuary, designed as a calm retreat within urban life. The space combines ancient Ayurvedic principles with modern therapies, offering

personalised treatments that address root causes of lifestyle-related conditions. Mira is also the co-founder of Akind, a skincare brand focused on clean, effective formulations that support the skin's natural barrier. As an investor, she supports conscious brands such as Zama Organics and Wellbeing Nutrition, reflecting her commitment to holistic and sustainable living. Through her ventures, Mira Kapoor continues to promote a thoughtful, integrative approach to modern wellbeing.



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Director Renu Basu	
Rural Development	Pulin Shroff
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Museum & Contemporary Arts	Priyarsi Patodia
RCB Medical Centre, Talwada	Chairman Emeritus PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
	Mihir Mody
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Anusuya Devi Taparia College	PP Pradeep Saxena
Director Akhil Sanghi	
Bhavishya Yaan	Jagdish Malkani
IT Innovation Labs	Nikhil Sanghai
Adult Literacy	Runit Shah
ESS Curriculum	Gautam Doshi
Scholarships	PP Preeti Mehta
Night Study Centre	Jamshyd Vazifdar
Director Swati Jajodia	
Cotton Green Clinic	Dr. Mehernosh Dotiwala
Cancer Aid	Farokh Balsara
Early intervention in Neurodivergent Children	PP Shermaz Vakil
Dharamshala	Miral Shah
Dialysis	Swati Jajodia
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