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RI President 2025-26

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Dist. Governor 2025-26

BEACHWATCH

Rotary Year 2025-26

Volume 24 : 15th January 2026

Club President: Bhavna Pandya | Club Secretary: PP Yogini Shah | Editor-in-Chief: Pradeep Parikh

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE



Warm greetings to My RCBJB family.

As we progress through the months of October, November, and December, I am pleased to share some meaningful milestones that truly reflect the spirit of service, fellowship, and cultural harmony that defines the Rotary Club of Bombay Juhu Beach.

One of our most significant initiatives this year is Project "UDAAN" through which we have undertaken the construction of a new school building. This project represents our commitment to empowering future generations by providing access to quality education and a nurturing learning environment, providing wings for unprivileged students in rural areas. I am delighted to share that the Bhumi Pujan and inauguration ceremony for this project will be conducted on 19th January, marking an auspicious beginning to a venture that will create long-term

impact for the community we serve.

RCBJB was honoured to have had the opportunity to host the Vice President of Rotary International, Mr. Alain Van De Poel and his wife at President Bhavna Pandya's residence. DGND 2028-29, Dr Indumati and our Club members PE Lata Desai, PP Udayan Bhatt and RCBJB Editor Pradeep Parikh were also present on the occasion.

It was a relaxed informal meet, and a great opportunity to talk about Rotary and various other topics. This meet has certainly raised the profile of RCBJB.

November arrived with the spirit of Rotary Service Week, and we enthusiastically participated in all the projects throughout the seven days, making it a truly fulfilling and impactful experience. RCBJB had the privilege of hosting a chess tournament for the visually impaired, and it was truly a humbling and inspiring experience. Witnessing their focus, confidence, and passion for the game reminded us that limitations exist only in the mind. The event was filled with determination, sportsmanship, and joy, leaving us deeply motivated to continue creating inclusive platforms that celebrate talent beyond boundaries.

Alongside impactful service, these months were also filled with joyous fellowship and celebrations.

Embracing the spirit of compassion and joy, we celebrated Christmas with special children. The celebration brought immense happiness to the children, who thoroughly enjoyed the festivities with Santa toy bags, gifts, snack boxes, chocolates, and moments filled with laughter and cheer.

During the festive December period, we also hosted a fellowship dinner featuring a live singer for our members and their spouses.

These projects and celebrations together reaffirm that Rotary is not only about service, but also about building relationships, celebrating diversity, and spreading happiness through meaningful action.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all our members for their unwavering support, participation, and commitment. Together, we continue to serve with purpose and uphold the true values of Rotary.

Warm regards,

Rtn. Bhavna Pandya

President

Rotary Club of Bombay Jubilee

Rotary Year 2025-26.

VISION BEYOND SIGHT – THE BLIND CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

on 08th November 2025,
by the Rotary Club of Bombay Juhu Beach.

RCBJB proudly organized "Vision Beyond Sight", The Blind Chess Championship, conducted by the Mumbai Suburban District Chess Association.

A total of 42 participants competed in a 15-minute rapid round using the Swiss League format. Impressively, 24 participants were FIDE-rated at the international level. The event began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded by 2:30 p.m., with breakfast and lunch provided. Registration charges of ₹300 per participant were refunded, and a total prize fund of ₹25,000 was distributed.

It was truly heartwarming to witness the joy and enthusiasm of each participant, who appreciated the thoughtful arrangements and the event's spirit.

Chess is a game of strategy, foresight, and mental strength—but to play it blindfolded, relying purely on memory and spatial visualization, is absolutely inspirational. Each player touched the chess pieces and squares on the board and committed them to memory, before making their moves—an incredible display of concentration and intellect. For us, it was both an inspiring and humbling experience to see their sportsmanship, grace, and positivity. Hats off to every participant for reminding the true strength and endless potential of the mind.

The total cost of the project was Rs 1,31,000.



THE HOSTING OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL V.P MR. ALAIN VAN DE POEL.



The Rotary Club of Bombay Juhu Beach (RCBJB) had the honor of hosting RI Vice President Mr. Alain Van De Poel and his lovely wife, Susan, on November 22, at the residence of RCBJB President, Rtn. Bhavna Pandya.

It was an informal and relaxed meeting-cum-dinner, featuring a traditional Gujarati meal. It was heartwarming to see Mr. Alain and Susan thoroughly enjoying the cuisine. The evening provided a perfect opportunity to exchange thoughts on Rotary and various other topics, and the warmth and connection at the meeting was comfortable and felt more like old friends getting together, unlike a first meeting.

Also present at the meeting were DGND 2028–2029 Dr. Indumati Gopinathan, with RCBJB members

Rtn. Pradeep Parikh, Rtn. Udayan Bhatt and

PE Rtn. Lata Desai.



GLIMPSE OF PROJECTS



15th Oct - 5 Computers Donated to Sanyas Ashram School



15th Oct - Blood donation at Andheri Station



18th Oct - Sport Shoes Donation to Shankarpada School Girls, for the District Level Kabbadi competition.



18th Oct - Diwali Celebration with 90 Cancer Patients and V Care Foundation.



23rd Oct - Blood Donation at Limbachia Manda, 40 units were collected



02nd Nov - Eye Camp at KDN Shruti School



04th Nov - Blood Donation Camp at Celebrations Club, as part of RSW Week



04th Nov - Blood Donation Camp at Sardar Patel Institute of Technology, Collecting 107 units.



05th Nov - Medical Check up & Breast Screening at Khar Police Station.



06th Nov - Sound Bath Meditation at St. Anthony's Old Age Home



08th Nov - Entertainment Programme for Specially Abled Children at Manilal Sundarji School



08th Nov - Chess Competition for the Visually Impaired.



09th Nov - BMD Screening at Surajibha Vidya Mandir, 75 people took the test



13th Nov - Children's day Celebration at a BMC school, with Billabong Interactors 2



14th Nov - Blood Donation Camp at Andheri Station



20th Nov - HPV Vaccination Drive for Girls at Cooper hospital



21st Nov - Breast Screening and BMD Medical Camp at J & B Foundation



03rd Dec - HPV Vaccination at Cooper hospital



06th Dec - Blood Donation at Mind Space



08th Dec - Sand Craft Activity at Sanyas Ashram School



10th Dec - Blood Donation Drive at Andheri Station



17th Dec - Annadan to Senior Citizens Home at Shree Nityanand Ashram



17th Dec - Annadan with Billabong Interactor Club



24th Dec - Christmas Party at Shishu Kalyan Kendra School

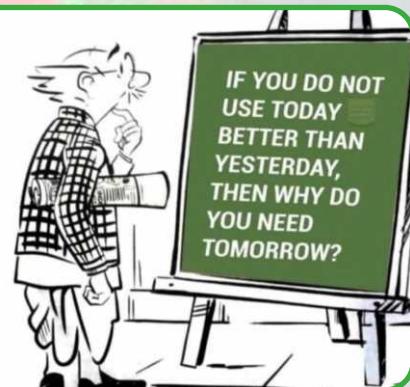
08th Jan - Blood Collection Drive at Andheri Station, 93 units collected.



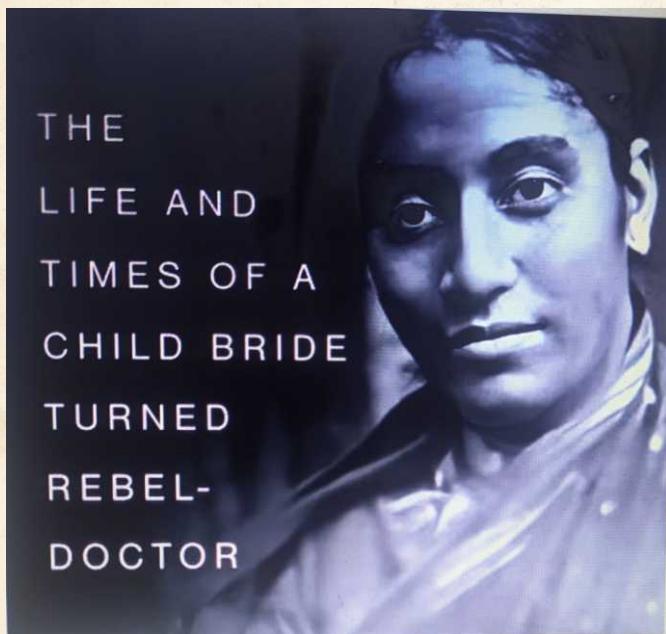
Special Recognition and Thanks to Dr. Krishna Desai, for her super efforts to collect 673 blood units in the last 6 months.

Dr. Krishna Desai is certainly a life saver to many many people. She has been involved in blood collection drives for a long time, so it's inspirational and exemplary service to the society and shows true Rotary spirit.

WHAT A THOUGHT...



INSPIRING PERSONALITIES. RUKHMABAI



In 1887, a court in Bombay gave a young woman named Rukhmabai, two choices. Go live with the husband you were forced to marry as a child, Or go to prison. She chose prison. Her answer shocked a nation. It ignited a debate that spread from India to England. And it helped change the law for millions of girls who would come after her.

This is the story of how one woman's refusal brought an empire to its knees.

Rukhmabai was born in Bombay in 1864. Her mother, Jayantibai, knew firsthand the cruelty of child marriage—she had been married at fourteen, became a mother at fifteen, and was widowed at seventeen. When Rukhmabai was eight, her mother remarried a man named Dr. Sakaram Arjun, an eminent physician and social reformer. When Rukhmabai was eleven years old, she was married to a nineteen-year-old named Dadaji Bhikaji. She was a child. She had no voice. She had no choice.

Under the customs of the time, she did not immediately move in with her husband. She stayed with her parents and continued her education in secret. While Rukhmabai grew into an intelligent, cultured young woman—reading voraciously, attending lectures, corresponding with reformers—Dadaji descended into laziness and debt. He dropped out of school. He fell under the influence of a scheming uncle. And he began to see his child bride as the solution to his financial problems. In 1884, when Rukhmabai was twenty years old, Dadaji demanded that she come live with him. She refused. He took her to court.

The case of Dadaji Bhikaji versus Rukhmabai became the most publicized legal battle in nineteenth-century India. Dadaji sued for "restitution of conjugal rights"—a legal term that meant, essentially, that his wife was his property and the court should force her to return to him. Rukhmabai's defense was unprecedented. She argued that she had been married as a helpless child, at an age when she couldn't possibly understand what marriage meant. She argued that she had never consented. She argued that a woman should not be treated as property to be claimed. No one had ever made these arguments in an Indian court before.

In 1885, Justice Robert Pinhey ruled in her favor. He declared that English law applied to consenting adults—and Rukhmabai had been an infant, incapable of consent. Conservative India exploded.

Traditionalists accused the court of attacking Hindu customs. Balgangadhar Tilak, the nationalist leader, wrote that Rukhmabai's defiance was the result of too much English education. Religious leaders warned that Hinduism itself was in danger. The case was appealed. And in 1886, a higher court reversed the decision. In March 1887, Justice Farran issued his ruling: Rukhmabai must go live with her husband, or face six months in prison.

Her response became legendary.

"I would rather go to prison," she declared, "than submit to a marriage I did not consent to."

The words traveled across oceans. British newspapers covered the case extensively. Women's magazines in England rallied to her cause. The famed scholar Max Müller wrote that Rukhmabai's education had made her the best judge of her own choices.

Meanwhile, Rukhmabai picked up her pen.

Writing anonymously as "A Hindu Lady" in The Times of India, she published fierce essays attacking child marriage. She wrote about girls forced into motherhood before their fourteenth birthdays. She wrote about the death of dreams, the suffocation of potential, the theft of childhood.

"This wicked practice has destroyed the happiness of my life," she wrote. "It comes between me and the thing I prize above all others—study and mental cultivation."

Her words reached Queen Victoria herself. Rukhmabai wrote directly to the Queen, appealing for justice. She asked for one simple change to Hindu law: that marriages performed before age twenty for boys and fifteen for girls should not be legally binding.

"This jubilee year must leave some expression on us Hindu women," she wrote, "and nothing will be more gratefully received." In July 1888, a settlement was finally reached. Dadaji accepted 2,000 rupees to dissolve the marriage and relinquish all claims to Rukhmabai.

She was free. But she wasn't finished.

With support from Dr. Edith Pechey, a pioneering British physician, Rukhmabai traveled to England to study medicine. In 1894, she graduated from the London School of Medicine for Women. She returned to India as one of the first practicing female doctors in the nation's history.

For the next thirty-five years, Rukhmabai served as Chief Medical Officer at women's hospitals in Surat and Rajkot. She treated patients from every class and caste. She trained women in nursing and hygiene. She worked through epidemics when others fled.

Even after retirement, she published pamphlets attacking the practice of purdah—the forced seclusion of women. In her will, she left her home to advance girls' education. The legal battle she fought in her twenties had consequences that outlived her by generations.

In 1891—just three years after her case concluded—the British government passed the Age of Consent Act, raising the minimum age for marriage. It was the first major legal reform protecting girls from child marriage in India.

Rukhmabai died on September 25, 1955. She was ninety years old.

In 2017, Google honored her with a Doodle on what would have been her 153rd birthday.

But her real legacy isn't a Doodle or a statue or a law with her name on it. Her legacy is every Indian girl who goes to school instead of becoming a bride. Every woman who chooses her own future. Every voice that refuses to be silenced.

Courtesy-The Forgotten Ledger.

A HISTORIC STEP FOR COMPASSION IN ROTARY DISTRICT 3141.

With immense joy, I am proud to share that Rotary Satellite Club of Bombay Juhu Beach – Animal Welfare has now been officially recognized by Rotary International.

This is District 3141's first cause-based Rotary club dedicated entirely to Animal Welfare — a bold and beautiful beginning for a movement that gives voice to the voiceless. What makes this even more special is that this passionate group of committed Rotarians has already begun its journey with a meaningful speaker meeting and awareness initiative, even before its formal launch.

A small but deeply dedicated team has come together with one powerful intention to serve, protect and advocate for animals with consistency, compassion and credibility. This club will be formally launched soon — and we invite like-minded change-makers, animal lovers, veterinarians, activists, feeders, rescuers and socially responsible citizens to join hands with us.

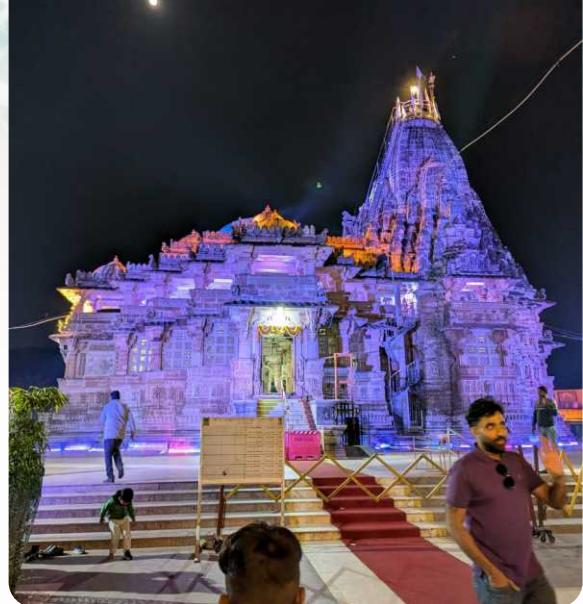
When compassion meets Rotary, change becomes unstoppable. Service above Self... for every life.

By Dr. Mona Shah

FELLOWSHIP TRIP TO GUJARAT

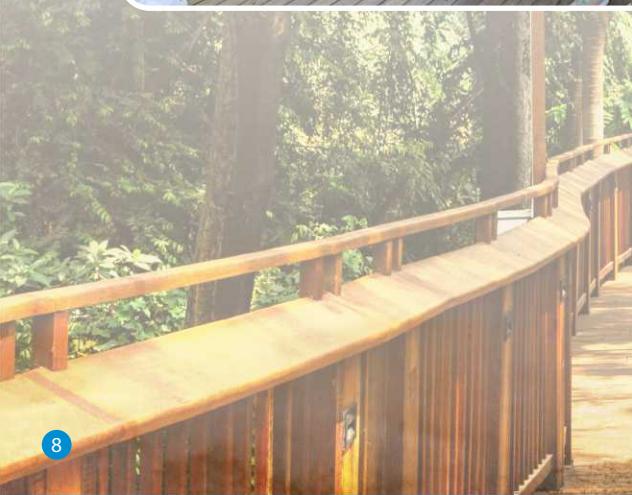
16 Anns had a rocking fellowship time at Wakaner, Gujarat. Hosted at her native place by President Bhavnaben and Jayeshbhai from 3rd December to 5th December. It was a memorable trip, made special by the incredible hospitality of the hosts and lip smacking amazing food. Two days filled with temple visits, star gazing, Camel cart ride around the village and endless gupshup.

We all returned home with our hearts filled with happy times spent together and a wonderful fellowship.



MALABAR HILL NATURE TRAIL ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2025

Well attended and ended with a sumptuous breakfast at Café Ideal, Chowpatty .



FIRESIDE MEETINGS



SGM was held on 26th Oct and PDG Gopal Mandhania was the guest speaker.



12th Nov, At Pre Pets, Thailand, PE Lata Desai and Children won 2nd Prize in Nach Baliye.



16th Nov, hosted by PP Deepan and Ami Soni.

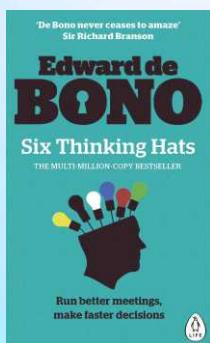


AGM was held on 09th Dec and the BOD for 26-27 was announced by PE Lata Desai

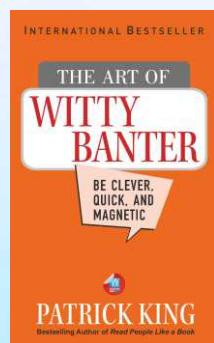


Fellowship and Entertainment Evening on 23rd Dec at Feast and Fable

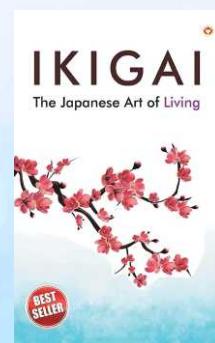
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS BY PRADEEP PARIKH



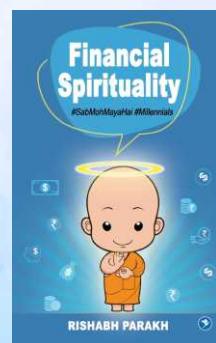
Six Thinking Hats
- By Edward De Bono



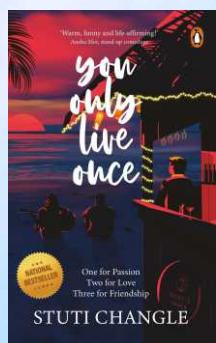
The Art of Witty Banter
- By Patrick King



Ikigai
- By Keira Miki



Financial Spirituality
- By Rishabh Parakh



You Only Live Once
- By Stuti Changle



Happy Birthday



January

- 01st Spouse Heena Raveshia
- 04th Spouse Binita Zaveri
- 06th Ketan Ajmera
- 07th Spouse Deepa Choksi
- 14th Spouse Sandeep Bhatt
- 16th Tejas Dave
- 20th Parul Doshi
- 24th Spouse Heena Shah
- 25th Lata Desai
- 27th Mona Shah

February

- 03rd Manish Sanghvi
- 05th Bharat Soni
- 08th Kishori Morarjee
- 09th Spouse Sonali Gandhi
- 13th Krishna Desai
- 19th Spouse Amit Shah
- 19th Spouse Rachna Parekh
- 21st Tushar Gandhi

March

- 06th Spouse Susheel Raathod
- 10th Spouse Vijay Shah
- 13th Spouse Nanda Shah
- 28th Udayan Bhatt
- 29th Spouse Lt Ashish Shah
- 30th Spouse Haituk Desai
- 30th Spouse Pooja Jimulia
- 31st Umesh Merchant



Happy Anniversary



January

- 18th Rtn. Shruti & Haituk Desai
- 18th Rtn. Dipti & Haren Sheth

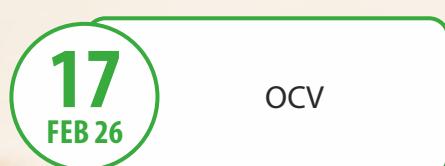
February

- 02nd Rtn. Dr. Preeti & Dr. Rajiv Nandani
- 08th Rtn. Bina & Nishith Patel
- 11th Rtn. Mansi & Kaushik Thakkar
- 11th Rtn. Dr. Shamin & Nikita Karbhari
- 19th Rtn. Rajeev & Sonali Gandhi
- 21st Rtn. Smita & Kashyap Shah
- 21st Rtn. Sudhir & Nita Shah
- 27th Rtn. Tejas & Sheetal Dave
- 28th Rtn. Bhavna & Jayesh Pandya

March

- 07th Rtn. Pradeep & Bahula Parikh
- 20th Rtn. Bharat & Aarti Shah
- 25th Rtn. Roopa & Yusuf Icelawa

FORTHCOMING UPCOMING EVENTS:



JAPANESE PSYCHOLOGY TRICKS

1 **Hara Hachi Bu** - Stop eating when you're 80% full to live longer.

2 **Kaizen** - Improve by 1% every day instead of chasing perfection.

3 **Shoshin** - Keep a beginner's mind, curiosity makes learning endless.

4 **Ikigai** - Find the reason you wake up, purpose fuels happiness.

5 **Nemawashi** - Prepare quietly before decisions, success comes from ground work.

6 **Wabi-Sabi** - Accept imperfections, beauty lives in flaws.

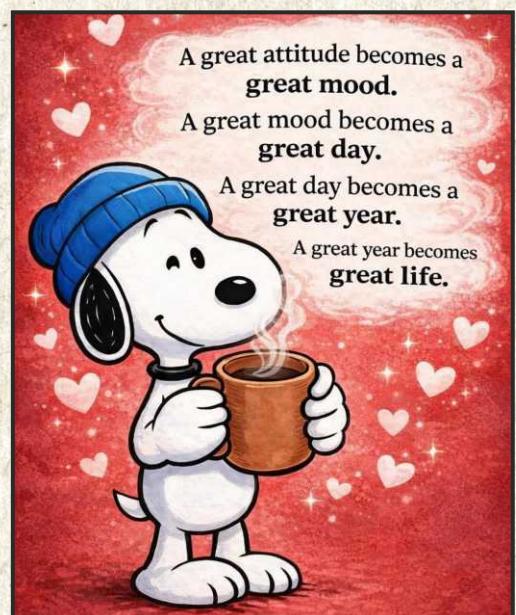
7 **Oubaitori** - Never compare yourself to others, everyone blooms in their own season.

Most Beautiful English Words

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 1. Serendipity | A happy accident; finding something good without looking for it | Meeting her was pure serendipity |
| 2. Luminous | Full of light; glowing softly | The stars looked luminous in the night sky |
| 3. Mellifluous | Pleasant and musical to hear | Her mellifluous voice calmed everyone |
| 4. Ethereal | Extremely delicate, light or heavenly | The sunrise painted the sky with ethereal colours |
| 5. Ephemeral | Lasting for a short time | Beauty is ephemeral, but kindness lasts |
| 6. Solitude | The state of being alone, often peacefully | He enjoyed the solitude of the mountains |
| 7. Euphoric | Intense happiness or excitement | She felt euphoric after hearing the good news |
| 8. Ineffable | Too good to be described in words | The beauty of the valley was ineffable |
| 9. Halcyon | Calm, peaceful and happy | They often spoke of the halcyon days of childhood |
| 10. Petrichor | The pleasant earthy smell after rain | The petrichor reminded her of home |

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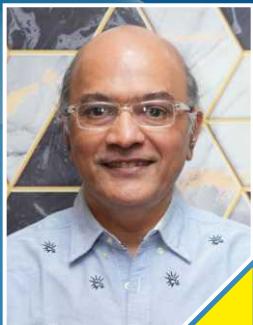
by Mark Parisi



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