



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das
President, Rotary Club of Shillong



Greetings on Shad Suk Mynsiem -13th April (Photo source: <https://nnews.in/meghalaya>)



Happy Bohag Bihu — one of the most vibrant and joyful festivals of Assam (Photo source: <https://www.theindia.co.in/blog>)

**President Rtn. Chandana Das exchanging Club Flag with a visiting Rotarian
Prof. Douglas D. Macmillan from Calgary, Canada**

RC Bombay reaches a healing touch to cancer patients

The Rotary Club of Bombay, RID 3141, one of India's premier, most admired and oldest clubs (chartered in 1929, is in a class by itself when it comes to doing striking, meaningful and massive community service projects. Recently in Mumbai I visited its iconic Dharmashala project, which operates a 100-flat temporary housing facility in Bhoiwada-Parel for cancer patients who come to the Tata Memorial Hospital, an advanced cancer treatment centre. Here, as though in a fairy tale, each patient and his/her attendants are given a simple, but neat, clean, comfortable and furnished one BHK for one month at a throwaway average monthly rent of ₹300.

At this facility, complete with swanky and spacious elevators, freshly cooked, delicious and healthy meals are offered at a nominal price to the attendants and patients who are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation at the nearby cancer hospital. In addition to the accommodation and food, a laundry service and shuttles are also available to take the residents to the hospital and bring them back.

The project, which has completed three years, is executed from a multi-storeyed building that belongs to MHADA (Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority) and is known as a transit camp, which is used to temporarily house slum dwellers when their slums are taken over for redevelopment by the state. The club has taken over 100 flats located from the 16th to the 21st floors on a 30-year lease, and converted them into basic 1BHK units. Roping in HDFC as a CSR partner this project has got a 10-year commitment from HDFC for an annual amount of ₹1.5 crore to meet expenses for maintenance, staff and state levies.

Project chair and club member Miral Shah explains that all the 12 apartments on a higher floor of this multi-storeyed building have



Members of RC Bombay with a cancer patient and his family.

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RC Bombay reaches a healing touch to cancer patients

been done up as 1 BHK studio units and given to doctors of the Tata Memorial Hospital who need accommodation. These are similar to those occupied by the patients, except for an AC unit.

From the remaining, 84 flats house patients and their families, one is converted into Shah's office, another given to the Tata Memorial hospital for its office, and two have been converted into a kitchen which prepares food for the residents.

Tracing the genesis of the programme RID 3141 PDG and club member Sandip Agarwalla said that prior to heading the district in 2022, he was in touch with the Tata Research Centre (TRC), the umbrella organisation that runs all Tata cancer hospitals, to carry out oral, cervical and breast cancer camps in the tribal district of Palghar. "In our meetings, they requested several machines for cancer patients. During Covid, the Rotarians had helped with special vaccinations to be administered to cancer patients. "We were able to help with a sizable contribution. But every time I passed the roads leading up to the Tata Memorial hospital, I was disturbed by the sight of so many cancer patients actually living on the footpaths or under the flyover. We know that cancer is a debilitating disease that bankrupts middle and lower-class families because of high recurring expenses."

(Source: Rotary News)

RID 3212 uses a sports event to increase women's engagement in Rotary

In order to increase women's involvement in Rotary, RI District 3212's leadership used an innovative approach — engage and enthuse more women by participation in a throwball tournament designed exclusively for women Rotarians, and the spouses and daughters of Rotarians.

The unique sporting initiative, titled 'Sheroes Throwball Tournament,' has created a powerful ripple effect across the district — socially, culturally and organisationally. In order to put "RI's vision of DEI, our DG Dhinesh Babu envisioned a Rotary year where women's participation would not only increase in Rotary but they would also become meaningful contributors to our activities such as service projects. To make a symbolic gesture of inclusion and recognition of the importance of women in all Rotary activities, at the throwball games, the official attire of the DG and assistant governors was designed in pink, sending a clear message that women would be at the forefront of the district's engagement efforts," said M Balamurugan, Rotary News coordinator for RID 3212.

The throwball tournament for women was organised by Malarvizhi, a member of RC Tuticorin Trailblazers. But to get the women from within the larger Rotary family in the district to embrace this event wholeheartedly was easier said than done. She recalls that when the first tournament was announced in August 2025 for clubs in Kanyakumari district, mobilising women to participate was a challenge. Club leaders were personally contacted and urged to generate an interest and build confidence among the female family members of Rotarians to participate. To ensure accessibility, no entry fee was charged, matches were held only on weekends to accommodate various responsibilities that women shoulder.

The DG's wife, Ramyaappriyaa, was personally involved from the beginning helping to make this a successful project. Balamurugan said the enthusiasm displayed in the first tournament was remarkable. "Participants followed rules diligently, competed with energy, and embraced sportsmanship. More importantly, the spirit of friendship far outweighed the focus on winning."

The results were astounding; women who had lived in the same town for years — yet had never interacted — formed meaningful connections through the tournament. The playing field became a platform for bonding.

Encouraged by the positive response, the core team expanded the event and took it to seven revenue districts including Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi, getting participation from 200 women in the age group 12–60 from 27 Rotary clubs. "The enthusiasm was palpable; some teams even engaged professional coaches for training. Custom-designed team jerseys added a vibrant, competitive atmosphere reminiscent of national-level sporting events," he said.

A welcome feature of this tournament was that it soon transformed into a sort of celebration with family members turning up to support the players. Husbands, fathers and children cheered from the sidelines, creating a festive environment. *(Source: Jaishree- Rotary News)*

