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At last month's International Assembly, President-elect Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola called on members of the Rotary world to live out our presidential message for the 2026-27 Rotary year: Create Lasting Impact. This February, as we observe Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an

opportunity to channel Yinka's call to action into real change.

Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one's family is not true peace. Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet fear often blocks that path — fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don't understand.

Fear isn't defeated through avoidance or aggression. Knowledge is the first step toward peace. Rotary embraces this idea. Our Rotary Peace Centers and their peace fellows, along with other peace education initiatives, demonstrate how knowledge builds trust and helps communities find solutions to conflict.

In Colombia, decades of conflict have left deep wounds. The 2025 Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale awardee, Pathways to Peace and Prosperity, partners with the United Nations World Food Programme to expand opportunity, improve conflict resolution, and connect people with social services. Its goal is to break cycles of violence, poverty, and food insecurity so peace can take root.

In Maharashtra, India, People of Action honoree Swati Herkal built peace through prosperity. Her project confronted farmers' declining soil health, rising debt, and illness caused by chemical fertilizers. She and her Rotary partners launched a regenerative agriculture program that revitalized the land, lowered costs, and restored stability. More than 1,100 farmers now participate and over 50 villages have adopted the model.

Rotary also advances peace by restoring dignity. In

Chad, Rotary Peace Fellow Domino Frank discovered that more than 1,500 women who fought in a rebellion had been erased from reintegration programs. His advocacy led to Chad's first Rotary Foundation global grant and the creation of Corridors of Peace. More than 100 women — triple the goal — completed literacy and vocational training and formed a cooperative to support their families.

From Colombia to India to Chad, the lesson is clear: Peace is not a dream. It is the result of sustained action with a focus on true, lasting impact. To replicate these successes, Rotary clubs can take three steps: Learn from peace fellows and other peace experts in our organization, apply a peacebuilding lens to community assessments, and prioritize impact over ceremony.

In a world filled with fear, Rotary cannot be satisfied with half-measures and empty words. If we are truly people of action, then action must define us. Together, we can Create Lasting Impact — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

From the Editor



As we step into another vibrant phase of the Rotary year, the month under review reflects the Rotary Club of Digboi's strong commitment to service, fellowship, and global understanding.

The celebration of India's Republic Day was a moment of pride and reflection, reaffirming our responsibility as citizens and Rotarians to uphold the values of equality.

Our active participation in the Rotary District Conference "Pratidhwani" provided inspiration, learning, and meaningful exchange and reinforcing the spirit of Rotary unity.

A special highlight was the participation of Rtn. Deepasree Das Sarkar at the Rotary International Peace Conference, symbolizing our club's connection to Rotary's global mission of peace and international understanding.

As we turn the pages of **आदर्श**, may these experiences inspire us to serve with renewed passion, lead with compassion, and continue creating hope—locally and globally.

Bhaskar Chaudhuri



Rotary International Peace, Goodwill and Conflict Prevention Conference

– Rtn Deepasree Das Sarkar

On a fine September, 25, evening I received a message from very senior and veteran Rotarian Chandrakant Chaudhary of R.C. Aurangabad, Metro. It was written, "Deepasree, you must attend this International Peace Summit".

Luckily my winter holidays fall on these dates. My daughter insisted me to visit the place. That was the clarion call for me. The story unfolds and the saga begins.



It was altogether five day event starts from 7th January, 2026 to 11th January, 2026. On 7th we have visited the Shrine of Sri Sai Baba at Shirdi, my long time wish at last fulfilled. It is due to Rotary and Rotary friendship. Actually our superfast train was late by 8 hours, so instead of Bombay we get down at Nasik Road. Rotarians Dr. Prasant Bhutada and Dr. Reshma gave us a hearty welcome here. We visited the Someswar Temple, Ram Sita Temple, Laxman Temple, Laxman Rekha Shrine, Panchavati, Tapovan, the place where Shurpanakha's nose was chopped off, evening Godavari Aarti. We are told that next year "Kumbh Mela" will be in Nasik.

In the evening of 6th we went to Sula Wine factory, it was an amazing experience to have a glimpse of wine tourism and taste the wine there in the campus. On 7th while coming back from Shirdi we were taken to meet the Professors and students of MIT (Maharashtra Institute of Technology) Aurangabad. There we had the interactive session followed by cultural program and gala dinner. We were put to the Ambassador Ajanta, a five star category hotel. The room, place, ambience and breakfast everything was of a high quality.



Meanwhile I made friendship with Mona Bhumkar and Muhammad Siddiqui Hussain who were the Master of Ceremony. Both of them are very cordial and on first meeting we become friends. On 8th we were taken to visit Grisneswar Jyotirlinga temple and there after the famous Ellora caves. Since class six / seven we are told about the famous caves of Ajanta and Ellora. This is the first time I have got the opportunity to visit the world heritage site with all the foreign Rotarians. The sweeping memories were mesmerizing. The paintings and structures are superb and reflects our great heritage and culture. In the evening we had a seminar where prospective learners who want to study abroad and how to get education loan without much effort were discussed threadbare.



Rtn. Simona Pinter who is a peace Scholar from Italy delivered her lecture on peace fellowship and the procedure to apply. On that evening the visiting Rotarians were asked to perform, I sang a popular Bihu song and recited self-composed shayeris and was much appreciated. Meanwhile I took the opportunity to felicitate the foreign Rotarians with our Phulam Gamosa and a packet of fusion tea from Assam.



On 9th morning we were taken to Ajanta caves. It was indeed a heart throbbing experience to move in the alleys of the caves and rediscover the painting, sculptures of ancient Indian. I was feeling so proud to be an Indian. In the meantime the renowned journalist Mrs Namrata Sharma arrived. Myself, Sunita Mehta of Delhi and Namrata were all together everywhere and had a wonderful time. In the evening we were taken to visit Industrial expo and cultural Program. The next day the actual Conference begins.

the success story of R. C. Digboi. It was much appreciated and many Rotarians enquired of me about it. In this regard I am indebted to Rtn. Goswami da and Rtn. Urmi ba of our club for the support. It was a great experience to share the same platform with Global Peace builders where direct on line presenters were there, Samuel Hen Washington D.C, Noushaba Shehzada from Lahore, Pakistan, Shaheena Asif Choudhary from Pakistan, Namrata Sharma from Nepal, Siti Mustafa from Malayasia and Myself from North East India. All the PDGs, DG of R.I. Dist 3132 assembled there. We had lunch together, exchanged flags.

Everyone now wants to visit the North East which they told they never had been. I invited them to discover an altogether different India and visit the land of Red River and Blue Hills.



The keynote speaker was Simona Pinter. I was lucky enough to present the entire North East and R.C. Digboi. The title of my paper was Organic Farming -- a sustainable way to peace building,





77th Republic Day was observed with great enthusiasm and pride by Rotary Club of Digboi at Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa, Muliabari, Digboi.

The programme was smoothly conducted by our Secretary Rtn. Dr. Dipen Borthakur.



The National Flag was unfurled by President Rtn. Santanu Roy, followed by a presidential address for the august gatherings. President Elect Rtn. Urmi Sarma Goswami & AG designate Rtn. Dr. Nirza Saikia also addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of the day & Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self".



The roots of Republic Day trace back to the Indian Independence Act of July 18, 1947, which ended British rule and transferred legislative authority to the Constituent Assembly of India.

The Constituent Assembly, tasked with drafting the constitution of the country, formed a drafting committee chaired by Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the country's first law minister, often referred to as the "Father of the Indian Constitution."

A draft of the document was submitted in November 1948 to the Constituent Assembly, which publicly debated and adjusted the text over the following year. January 26 was selected as the date of the Constitution's promulgation, in recognition of the Purna Swaraj ("Complete Self-Governance") resolution, a call for India's complete independence, adopted by the Indian National Congress on January 26, 1930.

The Constitution, one of the longest and most detailed in the world, established India as a democratic republic and a union of states.



"Every Indian should now forget that he is a Rajput, a Sikh, or a Jat. He must remember that he is an Indian."

— Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

A Grand Experience at PRATIDHWANI 2026

Rtn Santanu Roy

The Rotary District 3240 Conference 2026 was an exceptionally enriching and impeccably organized event. Although many participants have attended several district conferences over the years, this conference clearly distinguished itself through its superior planning and flawless execution.



The event reflected meticulous preparation and disciplined implementation at every stage. Each session was thoughtfully curated to provide valuable learning experiences and meaningful inspiration to the delegates. The keynote speakers delivered highly insightful and motivating addresses, reinforcing Rotary's core values, vision, and enduring commitment to service.



A standout moment for all of us was the meeting the legendary Bhaichung Bhatia and his wife. Meeting a Padma Shri awardee who has dedicated his post-retirement life to youth development and grassroots sports was truly inspiring. His journey from a small village to the international stage resonates deeply with Rotary's focus on Vocational Service and Youth Leadership, reminding us that with dedication, we can achieve greatness in any field.



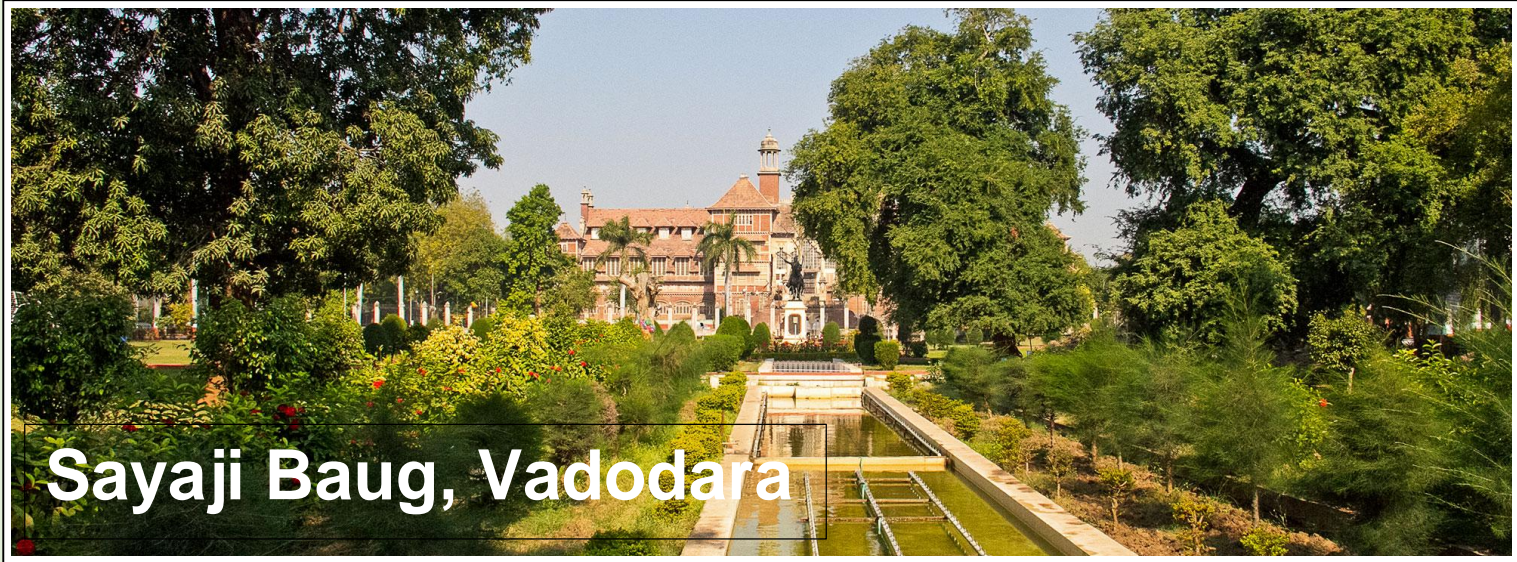
The cultural programme, especially the folk dance performances, was vibrant and elegant, adding color and grace to the conference proceedings. The evening musical programs further strengthened fellowship among Rotarians, fostering an atmosphere of warmth, unity, and camaraderie.



We extend our deepest appreciation to District Governor Kameshwar Singh Ji and his tireless organizing team. Putting together an event of this magnitude is no small feat; your vision and dedication ensured that every participant felt welcomed and inspired. Thank you for making this conference a landmark success.



Overall, the conference was truly par excellence, seamlessly blending learning, fellowship, and cultural enrichment. It left a lasting impression on all attendees and inspired renewed enthusiasm and dedication toward Rotary service.



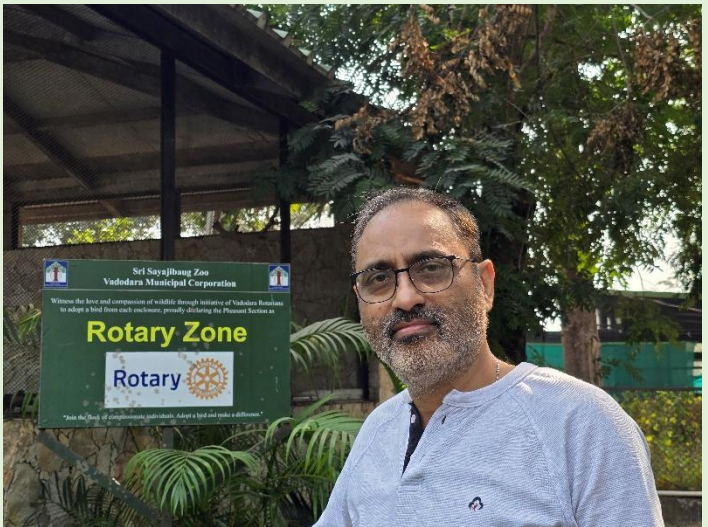
Sayaji Baug, Vadodara

Sayaji Baug, also known as Kamati Baug, was built by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III is a massive green square in the middle of the Baroda town, which houses the famous Museum and Picture Gallery, and other kid-friendly sights like an aquarium, zoo, health museum, planetarium, a toy train and a flowerbed clock.

The Baroda Museum & Picture Gallery is home to a diverse collection of art, much of it gathered by Maharaja Sayajirao III, including statues and carvings from several Asian regions, fine ivory carvings from India, Japan and China, a modest Egyptian room with a mummy and an entire floor of stuffed and pickled wildlife specimens. The gallery has lovely Mughal miniatures and a motley crew of European masters. This is the largest public garden in the western part of the country, sprawled over 113 acres. Over 96 species of trees and a small zoo make this an interesting place for nature lovers.

The Sayaji Baug Zoo in Vadodara features a prominent walk-in aviary, with a specialized gallery named the "Rotary Zone" inaugurated by Rotary Vadodara ONE in 2023, where local Rotary clubs adopted 15 birds, supporting their food expenses for a year.

According to Rotary Vadodara ONE, project represents a major public image initiative for the club, with the zoo attracting a large number of visitors annually.



Rotary Vadodara ONE's post

Rotary Vadodara ONE
4 July 2023 · 🌐

A gallery in (Kamati baug zoo) the new aviary was named as Rotary Zone .
A public image project which caters 8lakh footprints per year.

All clubs of Rotary Vadodara adopted 15 birds from the newly constructed aviary of Vadodara Sayajibaug Zoo and , bearing all their food expenses for 1 year. A gallery in the new aviary was named as Rotary Zone. Rotary3060 DG Nihir Dave & First Lady Vaishali Dave inaugurated in presence of Standing Committee Chair Dr.Hitendra Patel. This is a new unique campaign taken up by all clubs of Rotary Vadodara. For the first time in Gujarat, such a large number of birds were adopted in a zoo by Rotary Clubs and as per zoo record data every year has 8Lakhs peoples come to see the birds.

#rotaryinternational
#serviceprojects
#team_saarathi
#ry_2023_24
#RID3060
#peopleofaction





Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
President-elect 2025-26
Rotary Club of Trans Amadi
Rivers State, Nigeria

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola received a university degree in engineering in 1988. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions in Shell PLC and carrying out projects on four continents. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas

infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola's professional affiliations include the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria, and the Association of Change Management Professionals. He is a member of Jericho Businessmen Club, an organization in his birth city of Ibadan that provides input to governments on economic and social policy.

A Rotaractor for 10 years, Babalola has been a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi since 1994 and served as a district governor from 2011-12. He served on the RI Board of Directors (2018-20) and was vice president in 2019-20. He has served on committees including the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23, vice chair 2017-20) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in the city of Port Harcourt. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. He volunteers as a trustee for ShelterBox UK. He has received the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

"The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood."

- Paul P Harris

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary has always been more than an organization—it is a promise. A promise that when people of action come together, they can change lives, strengthen communities, and shape a better future.

In 2026–27, our call is clear: Create Lasting Impact.

Lasting impact is not measured only by the projects we complete or the funds we raise, but by the lives we touch and the systems we help transform. It is impact that endures long after a project ends—when a child stays in school, when a community gains access to clean water, when peace is nurtured through understanding, and when hope replaces hardship.

To create lasting impact, we must think beyond short-term solutions and commit ourselves to sustainability, continuity, and partnership. Rotary's greatest strength lies in our ability to combine local insight with global reach.

This year, I encourage every Rotarian to focus on three guiding principles:

Serve with Purpose.

Let our projects be driven by real needs and thoughtful planning. When we align our service with Rotary's areas of focus and measurable outcomes, we ensure that our efforts truly make a difference.

Grow with Intention.

Lasting impact requires a strong and diverse Rotary family. By welcoming new voices, empowering young leaders, and fostering inclusive club cultures, we secure Rotary's future and expand our capacity to serve.

Lead with Integrity and Compassion.

Rotary leadership is rooted in ethical action and empathy. By leading with humility, listening deeply, and acting responsibly, we inspire trust and multiply our impact.

Every Rotarian has a role to play. Whether through service, leadership, mentorship, or advocacy, each action—no matter how small—has the potential to ripple outward and endure. Together, we can turn good intentions into lasting change.

Let us ensure that when future generations look back, they will see that Rotary did not simply respond to challenges—but created lasting impact.



THE 36TH DISTRICT CONFERENCE - PRATIDHWANI PARTICIPATION OF RC DIGBOI

