



साप्ताहिक रोटरी दिशा

ROTARY CLUB OF LATUR MID-TOWN

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3132 | Club No.: 22604

जानेवारी - २०२६ | विसावा अंक

चेंज द लाइव्ज
विथ रोटरी



Rtn. Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Rtn. Sudhir Lature
Dist. Governor 2025-26



Rtn. Amol Dadge
President



Rtn. Pawan Malpani
Secretary





प्रिय रोटेरियन बंधू- भगिनींनो,

रोटरी दिशा या आपल्या साप्ताहिक बुलेटीनच्या फेब्रुवारी महिन्यातील पहिल्या अंकाचे अतिथी संपादक म्हणून मनोगत व्यक्त करण्याची संधी मिळणे, हा माझ्यासाठी सन्मान आणि आनंदाचा क्षण आहे. रोटरी दिशा हे केवळ माहितीचे माध्यम नसून, आपल्या क्लबच्या कार्याचा आरसा आणि रोटरी विचारांचा प्रवाह आहे. फेब्रुवारी महिना रोटरी कॅलेंडरमध्ये अत्यंत महत्त्वाचा मानला जातो. हा महिना आपल्याला शांतता, समन्वय आणि परस्पर सहकार्य यांचे महत्त्व अधोरेखित करतो. समाजात शांततेचे बीज रोवणे, संवादातून मतभेद मिटवणे आणि सकारात्मक बदल घडवणे हीच रोटरीची खरी ओळख आहे. आजच्या वेगवान आणि तणावपूर्ण जीवनात, शांतता केवळ जागतिक स्तरावरच नव्हे तर कुटुंब, कार्यस्थळ आणि समाज या प्रत्येक पातळीवर जपणे गरजेचे झाले आहे. रोटरीच्या माध्यमातून राबवले जाणारे शैक्षणिक, सामाजिक व सेवाभावी उपक्रम हे प्रत्यक्षात शांततेचे कार्यच आहेत. या अंकांमध्ये आपल्या क्लबने केलेल्या विविध उपक्रमांचे व सेवाप्रकल्पांचे व रोटेरियन बांधवांच्या सहभागाचे प्रतिबिंब दिसून येईल. अशा साप्ताहिक अंकांमुळे सदस्यांमध्ये प्रेरणा निर्माण होते, नव्या कल्पनांना चालना मिळते आणि रोटरी कुटुंब अधिक मजबूत होते. या बुलेटीनच्या निर्मितीसाठी सातत्याने परिश्रम घेणाऱ्या संपादकीय टीमचे, क्लब पदाधिकाऱ्यांचे आणि सक्रिय सदस्यांचे मी मनःपूर्वक अभिनंदन करतो. त्यांच्या प्रयत्नांमुळे रोटरी दिशा ही आपल्या क्लबची खरी दिशा दाखवणारी ठरते आहे. चला, या फेब्रुवारी महिन्याची सुरुवात आपण सेवा, शांतता आणि सहकार्य या त्रिसूत्रीने करूया. रोटरीच्या मूल्यांशी निष्ठावान राहून समाजात सकारात्मक बदल घडवण्यासाठी सर्वजण एकत्रितपणे कार्य करूया. "Serve Above Self" या ब्रीदवाक्याला आत्मसात करत, रोटरीची दिशा सदैव उज्वल ठेवूया हीच सदिच्छा.



रो. एन. आर. जाधव
अतिथी संपादक, रोटरी दिशा

Secretary Report

- राष्ट्रगीताने मिटींग ची सुरुवात झाली.
- फोरवे टेस्ट चे वाचन सामुहिकरीत्या झाले.
- मागील मिटींग चे वाचन सचिव पवन मालपानी यांनी केले..
- अध्यक्षानी सर्व सभासदांचे मनःपूर्वक स्वागत केले.
- व्होकेशनल अवार्ड व नेशन बिल्डर अवार्ड ची माहिती प्रोजेक्ट चेअरमन रो. गिरीष पेन्सलवार यांनी सभागृहात मांडली व खर्चाचा तपशील सादर केला.
- हेल्थ चेकअप कॅम्प प्रोजेक्ट साठी इतर तीन गावांची विनंती होत असल्याची माहिती अध्यक्ष यांनी सांगितले
- क्लब बुलेटिन : साप्ताहिक रोटरी दिशा चे अनावरण डिजी सुधीर लातुरे व अतिथी संपादक हस्ते करण्यात आले. अतिथी संपादक म्हणून रो. शिरीष उटगे यांनी कार्य केले.
- कॉन्फ्रन्स साठी आलेल्या सभासदांनी अनुभव कथन करावे असे आवाहन अध्यक्षांनी केले.
- डिस्ट्रीक्ट कॉन्फ्रन्स गोवा कार्निव्हल बहल रो. विशील अयाचित, रो. संतोष गांधी, रो. शिरीष उटगे, रो. श्रीकांत अप्पा पंचाक्षरी, रो. अनिल पाटील, रो. चेतन पंढरीकर, रो. सचिव पवन मालपानी, रो. अध्यक्ष अमोल दाडगे, रो. डॉ. तापडीया, रो. अमोल बनाळे, रो. शशिकांत मोरवलावार यांनी अनुभव कथन केले.
- १०० % अटेन्डन्स बहल अटेन्डन्स चेअरमन यांनी सर्वांनी गिफ्ट वाटप केले.
- फेलोशिप अनाउन्समेंट रो. श्रध्दानंद अपशेट्टी यांनी केली.

Man of The Meeting



Rtn. Anil Patil

1st Come in the Hall



Rtn. Govind Kunchamwar

How Rotary Changes Lives at the Grassroots Level

Rotary is often described as a global organization, but its true strength lies at the grassroots level—where service meets real people, real needs, and real change. Across towns, villages, and cities, Rotary clubs quietly but powerfully transform lives by identifying local challenges and offering sustainable solutions. This grassroots approach is what makes Rotary’s impact deep, lasting, and meaningful. At the heart of Rotary’s work is the belief that local communities understand their problems best. Rotary clubs are made up of professionals and community leaders who live and work among the people they serve. This close connection allows Rotarians to identify genuine needs—whether it is access to clean drinking water, basic healthcare, quality education, sanitation, or livelihood opportunities. Instead of imposing solutions, Rotary listens first, collaborates with local stakeholders, and then acts. One of the most visible ways Rotary changes lives is through health and hygiene initiatives. From organizing medical and dental camps to supporting maternal and child health programs, Rotary ensures that essential healthcare reaches those who need it most. Simple interventions such as eye check-up camps, distribution of spectacles, vaccination drives, or awareness sessions on nutrition and mental health can dramatically improve quality of life for underserved communities. Education is another powerful area of Rotary’s grassroots impact. Rotary clubs support government schools by providing infrastructure, digital learning tools, scholarships, school uniforms, and books. Many children who might otherwise drop out are able to continue their education because of Rotary’s timely support. Literacy programs for adults and vocational training for youth further empower individuals to become self-reliant and confident contributors to society. Rotary’s commitment to clean water and sanitation has brought transformative change to countless communities. By constructing toilets, installing water purification systems, repairing borewells, and promoting hygiene awareness, Rotary not only improves health outcomes but also restores dignity—especially for women and girls. Access to clean water reduces disease, saves time, and enables children to attend school regularly. Economic empowerment at the grassroots level is another area where Rotary makes a lasting difference. Through skill development programs, self-help group support, micro-entrepreneurship initiatives, and vocational training, Rotary helps individuals gain livelihoods and financial independence. These initiatives create a ripple effect, uplifting families and strengthening entire communities. Perhaps Rotary’s most iconic grassroots achievement is its leadership in the global fight against polio. What began as a vision decades ago has resulted in one of the largest public health efforts in history. Through immunization drives, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with governments and global organizations, Rotary has helped bring the world to the brink of polio eradication—proving how grassroots action, when scaled globally, can change the course of history. Beyond projects, Rotary changes lives by building leadership and fostering values. Youth programs such as Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) nurture young leaders who are socially responsible and service-oriented. These programs plant seeds of compassion, integrity, and leadership that grow long after the projects end. What truly distinguishes Rotary’s grassroots work is its emphasis on sustainability and continuity. Rotary does not believe in one-time charity. Instead, projects are designed with long-term impact in mind—training beneficiaries, involving local authorities, and ensuring community ownership. This approach ensures that the benefits of Rotary service continue for years to come. In essence, Rotary changes lives not through grand gestures, but through consistent, compassionate action at the local level. It is in the smile of a child returning to school, the relief of a patient receiving care, the pride of a family accessing clean water, and the confidence of a youth stepping into leadership. These are the quiet victories that define Rotary’s success. By serving at the grassroots, Rotary proves that when ordinary people come together with a shared purpose, they can create extraordinary change. Truly, Rotary makes a difference—one community, one project, and one life at a time.

Rotary Mid Town this Week Photo Gallery



Congratulations



Rtn. Santosh Satpute & Rtn. Nogorao Jadhav
Both were honoured to receive MDRT (USA)
2026 award by LIC of India at Taj hotel, Mumbai

Today's article in 'Times Of India' on Dinesh Soni's
journey of Indian Temples. Again a wonderful
milestone covered with featuring in one
of the best news papers The
Times Of India. Congratulations! once again.

Mandirs go mobile as temple influencers reel in followers

Himanshi Dhawan@timesofindia.com

It began, as most online rabbit holes do, with a WhatsApp forward. The message claimed that sculptures of women using an iPad and a mobile phone had been "discovered" in an ancient Gujarat temple.

While most would have shrugged and scrolled on, Maharashtra-based businessman Dinesh Soni didn't. He tracked down the image and found that the supposed iPad being used was actually a depiction of a 'patralekha' — literally, a letter writer — while the other figure was likely applying kajal.

"These exaggerated claims about cycles, mobiles, dinosaurs being found in ancient temples really stirred me to do something about it," says the myth buster. Like any harried parent, Soni's interest in researching temples began as a way to fend off his children's constant holiday questions and to appear less foolish than he felt. But somewhere along the way, this parental homework took on a life of its own. "I trade in oil seeds during the day and research sculptures and inscriptions during my free time," he says.

The Latur resident now runs the Instagram handle @indiantemples, with 1.61,000 followers, and has authored 18 books on the subject. He has also created an app that will curate information on archeological museums, site repositories, and historical places in one place.

In a deeply religious country like India, it's no surprise that temple content flies. Many Instagrammers have already tapped into it. Mathura and Vrindavan temples have been besieged by #gopiglam #shri trends, with influencers posing in lehenga choli and 'gopi makeup' while men sport Krishna outfits and beacock plumes.

Bareilly with its recently launched Nath corridor — connecting ancient Shiva temples in the area — is giving Goa a run for its money in tourist love, and Ayodhya's Ram Mandir has spawned a dedicated army — not unlike the BTS one — of influencers like @apophyaware or Harshvardhan Patel who capture not just the different stages of temple construction, crowds facilities, and places to eat but also the "vibes".

This fresh burst of attention for religious sites builds on a long-standing reality. Temples like Tirupati and Sabarimala, along with several others in the South, have topped domestic tourism charts for decades. Indians, in fact, have a knack for locating sacred sites almost anywhere. But what earlier used to be a 10-minute solemn 'darshan' is now all about the "experience" that sees influencers posting religious reels, pre-wedding shoots, and even some intrepid myth creators who "find" cycles and mobiles in ancient sites.

So what do influencers add to something so easily accessible to everyone? "Young people want an explanation on why they are following certain rituals or restrictions, or why certain food is being cooked during a festival, rather than believing custom and tradition blindly. If we don't document this and make people aware, our centuries-old knowledge will be lost," says Namratha Mohan, who runs the Instagram channel @thetemplegirl.

Mohan, who quit her Amazon job last year to run the channel, uses the platform to decode rituals while blending in the temple's architecture and history. She also uses AI to lend a modern touch to her

reels. Her move away from corporate life, however, happened almost by accident. The 37-year-old and her husband started curried spiritual tours in 2014 after they found it difficult to plan their own Char Dham yatra. The tours gained popularity before the pandemic brought their business to an abrupt halt. That's when the couple decided to reset and moved from Mumbai to Mangaluru to document temples around them. Their 15-45 minute videos found an enthusiastic audience and were even screened on local cable TV channels. Once short-format videos surged, the @thetemplegirl was born in 2024.

"Within a year, the page grew so popular that I had to choose between my corporate job and the channel," she says. Mohan now has 1.7 million followers and two books in the offing.

Not all attempts work, though. Influencer Jasmine Jaffar raised a storm after washing her feet in a water reservoir used to clean the deity at Guruvayur temple in Kerala. The incident led to a police complaint, Jasmine issuing a public apology and removal of the video.

However, all this attention can also work in a temple's favour. In Sept last year, an influencer posted a video of an ancient temple in Andhra Pradesh's Bilkani village that had been turned into a garbage dump, its sloped walls clogged with plastic and other waste. The video was shared widely and spurred followers and local residents to clean the area.

"That same impulse pushed Priyesh Jain, a digital marketer from Udaipur, to post about an ancient temple near his village Kun that had become a haven for drunks and vagabonds. "The temple has existed for over 1,000 years but no one in the village was taking care of it. I didn't even know that this place existed and discovered it by chance," he says.

That chance discovery led him to start the Instagram handle @secrettemples in July 2020. In the last few years, Jain has built a network of 1,000 volunteers who contribute content including local legends associated with lesser-known temples. "This has become a crowd-sourced platform. My only condition is that it should only promote the temple, not any individual. When I make a video, we research historical facts, architecture and local legends around the site," he says.

Like Mohan and Soni, Jain says that he, too, is trying to "influence" the young. "To help them understand who they are and what their ancestors achieved, without waiting for divine intervention to do the explaining.

Mohan, who quit her Amazon job last year to run @thetemplegirl, decodes rituals, blends AI with temple history

