Rotary

82 YEARS OF UNTIRING SERVICE

UNITE FOR GOOD

LET'S CREATE A LEGACY 2025-26

• Dist. **3170** • Club No. : **15655** • Charter No. : **5685** & Dated : **01-11-1943** •

ROTARY CLUB OF KOLHAPUR

2025-26

Rtn. Francesco Arezzo
RI PRESIDENT

Rtn. Arun D. Bhandare
DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Rtn. Pradeep Karande
PRESIDENT

Rtn. Nilesh Kutte
SECRETARY

Rotary HERALD

Weekly Bulletin 2025-26

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04-05-2026

Computer Donation to Kalaprabodhini

Date : 30th April 2026
Venue: Bhalaji Pendharkar Sanskrutik Kendra, Kolhapur

Kalaprabodhini, an educational institution at **Bhalji Pendharkar Sanskrutik Kendra**, Kolhapur, had requested educational support from the **Rotary Club of Kolhapur.** Responding to this appeal, the Rotary Club donated a **Computer** with a graphics card & LED Screen to the institution, strengthening its digital learning infrastructure.

During the program, the institution's office bearers shared that around 100 students are currently studying at the school, and this computer will greatly benefit especially the needy students.

Rotary Club of Kolhapur President **Rtn. Pradeep Karande**, in his address, explained the various service initiatives undertaken by Rotary. He emphasised that providing quality education to underprivileged students is a key focus, and this distribution of educational material is one such initiative. He expressed confidence that the students will make the best use of the facility. The institution's representatives expressed their gratitude to the **Rotary Club of Kolhapur** for the generous support.

The program was attended by President **Rtn. Pradeep Karande**, Public Relations Committee Chairman **Rtn Ajinkya Kadam**, along with other **office bearers** of the institution.

"We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet."

International Women Rugby Stars visit to RSSK's Hydrotherapy Centre, Inspire with their journey

Date : 04th May 2026
Venue: Rotary Samaj Seva Kendra, Kolhapur

We were honored to welcome **international women rugby players Kalyani Patil and Vaishnavi Patil, along with National player Sakshi Kumbhar, at our Hydrotherapy Centre,** accompanied by their **coach Mr. Deepak Patil.** They were warmly received by **Rtn. Amol Ghodake** and the dedicated staff at **RSSK**, marking a proud and memorable occasion for all present.

Kalyani Patil, a standout rugby sevens player from Kolhapur, has represented India at the **Asian Games 2022** and is a proud recipient of the prestigious **Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Award (2024–25)**. **Vaishnavi Patil**, known for her exceptional speed as a forward, represented India at the **Asian Games 2023** and has also been honoured with the **Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Award (2022–23)**.

Sakshi Kumbhar is a talented National-Level rugby player who continues to contribute significantly to the sport at a competitive level. All three athletes are trained under the expert guidance of **Coach Deepak Patil**, whose dedication and mentorship have played a vital role in shaping their successful careers.

It was a truly proud and inspiring moment for our entire team. Discussions were held regarding specialised training for the athletes at our Hydrotherapy Centre, focusing on performance enhancement and the benefits of Hydrotherapy. We intend to provide structured training sessions at our center to support their preparation for the **National Selection in June 2026**.

TRIVIA QUESTION ?

Question :

Who is the Distric Governor RI Dist.3170 of the year 2026–2027?

A) Arun D. Bhandare
B) Dr. Lenny Da Costa
C) Sharad Pai
D) Olayinka Babalola

Send your answers to **Rtn. Dr. Pooja Sasurkar** on **Whatsapp** **90285 26755**

The names of the **First Five Members** with correct answers will be published in the next bulletin

Last week Question & Answer

Who is the President of Rotary International 2026–2027?

Answer -
C) Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

Answers given by -
1) Ann Nikita Gandhi
2) Ann Dhara Sheth
3) Ann Vaishali Taral
4) Ann Poonam Shah
5) Ann Shobha Arvind

Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo's May 2026 Message

Follow the youth

Shoki Wafula did not know what to expect when he was forced to leave his birth country of **Uganda** for **South Africa**. What he found was a **Rotary community** that welcomed him with warmth and friendship. That experience inspired him to help create a **Rotaract e-club** where **young leaders** from around the world could **connect, develop their skills, and serve together**.

Today, that community includes members across multiple continents who collaborate on **leadership development, peace-building, and service initiatives**. For **Wafula**, the experience reinforced the lesson that **meaningful service begins with people who feel connected, valued, and empowered to lead**.

His story reminds us why **Youth Service Month** is so important. Through **Rotaract** and programmes like **Rotary Youth Exchange**, young people build **leadership skills**, develop **global understanding**, and discover the **impact they can make through service**.

Rotary's Action Plan calls on us to enhance **participant engagement**. At its heart, that goal asks a simple question: **How can we ensure that participation in Rotary is meaningful and fulfilling for everyone?** Youth programmes and **Rotaract** provide a **powerful answer**.

When clubs mentor **Rotaractors**, host **exchange students**, or support **youth leadership initiatives**, they create opportunities for members to share their experience in ways that feel **personal and rewarding**. These connections deepen members' **sense of purpose** and strengthen the bonds within our **Rotary family**.

They also create **lasting pathways into Rotary**. Thousands of young people complete **Rotary programmes** each year, and they carry those experiences with them throughout their lives. Many remain eager to **stay connected**.

Organisations such as **Rotex International**, an association of former **Youth Exchange students**, help **Rotary programme alumni** continue serving as **mentors, leaders, and advocates** for our youth programmes. As Rotex co-founder **Hans Lee** wrote in a recent reflection on **Youth Exchange alumni**, *"exchange doesn't end when you return home."*

When we welcome these **young leaders** into our clubs and activities, we strengthen the **continuity of Rotary across generations**.

During **Youth Service Month**, I hope every **Rotary club** reflects on how **youth programmes** can enhance engagement for **new and longtime members**. Collaborate on **service projects** and invite **youth voices** into your **planning and decision making**.

Rotary's message to the world is that we can ***Unite for Good.*** Youth programmes show us how that happens in practice — when **generations come together, share ideas, and work side by side in service**.

When we invest in **young people**, we are not only shaping **future leaders**. We are building a **stronger, more connected Rotary today**.

■ ■ ■

*Shared by - **Rtn. Ajinkya Kadam***

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected to be 2026-27 Rotary International president

***Olayinka Hakeem Babalola**, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27.*

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the organization's leader after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1984 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi 10 years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20). He was also an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

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. 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.

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. A trustee of ShelterBox UK, he is a recipient of the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

The president of Rotary International serves a one-year term, presiding over the Board of Directors and providing inspirational leadership for the organization. As the spokesperson for the global network, the president visits clubs around the world to promote Rotary's values and represent the organization at major events. Rotary chooses its president from members who have demonstrated extensive leadership experience within Rotary, including service as a club president, district governor, and member of the Board.

"So ... You Want to End Polio?"

Rotary International continues to lead one of the world's most ambitious humanitarian missions — the eradication of **Polio**. According to Rotary International, global polio cases have been reduced by an extraordinary **99.9%**, bringing the world to the brink of complete eradication. Today, the disease remains endemic in only a few regions, yet the risk persists as long as even a **single case exists anywhere in the world**.

The journey to eliminate **Polio** is far more complex than administering **vaccines**. It involves a vast global network of **surveillance systems**, **laboratories**, and **rapid response teams** working tirelessly behind the scenes. These coordinated efforts ensure that outbreaks are quickly identified and contained, highlighting the scale and precision required in the **final stages of eradication**.

Rotary has played a pioneering role in this global fight since initiating its first vaccination program in **1979**. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has helped immunize **over 3 billion children** and contributed **$2.9+ billion** towards eradication efforts. Beyond funding, **Rotary Members** actively engage in **advocacy**, **awareness campaigns**, and **on-ground volunteer work** across the globe.

Despite remarkable progress, the mission is not yet complete. Health experts warn that if eradication efforts are halted prematurely, the virus could **resurge** and once again threaten **thousands of children worldwide**. The **final phase** of eradication is considered the most challenging, requiring sustained **commitment**, **funding**, and **global cooperation**.

Rotary calls upon individuals and communities to support this historic mission through **donations**, **awareness**, and **active participation**. With continued dedication, the vision of a **Polio-Free World** is within reach. The message remains clear — **We Are This Close… and together, we must finish the job.**

While the world celebrates progress, the **truth** is that ending **Polio** is not just a medical challenge but also a **social and logistical battle**. In many regions, issues like **conflict zones**, **vaccine hesitancy**, **misinformation**, and **difficult terrain** make it extremely hard for health workers to reach every child. Frontline workers often risk their lives to ensure that no child is left behind, reminding us that eradication requires not only science, but also **courage, trust, and community support**.

Another critical reality is that stopping efforts now could reverse decades of progress. Studies indicate that within **10 years**, **Polio could return globally** if vigilance declines. The infrastructure built for polio eradication — including **disease tracking systems** and **health networks** — also supports the fight against other diseases, making this mission vital beyond just one virus. The world stands at a historic turning point, and with sustained effort, **Polio can become only the second human disease ever eradicated after Smallpox**.

*Shared by - **Rtn. Ajinkya Kadam***

Rajaram Talav & Agriculture College

"A Legacy of Conservation, A Future of Sustainability."

Introduction

Located in the historic city of Kolhapur, Rajaram Talav and the Agriculture College stand as important symbols of environmental sustainability and agricultural advancement. Together, they reflect how natural resources and education can work hand in hand for the development of society.

Rajaram Talav – A Historic Water Resource

Rajaram Talav is a century-old reservoir that has played a vital role in meeting the water needs of Kolhapur. Built during the princely era, it served as a dependable source for irrigation and daily use. Even today, it continues to support groundwater recharge and helps maintain ecological balance in the surrounding areas.

Rejuvenation and Environmental Efforts

Over time, the Talav faced issues like pollution and silt accumulation. However, collective efforts by socially active citizens and organizations led to its revival. Cleaning drives, desilting work, and large-scale tree plantation initiatives transformed the area into a green and vibrant ecological zone, promoting awareness about water conservation.

Agriculture College, Kolhapur – Centre of Learning

The Agriculture College, affiliated with Shivaji University, is a renowned institution dedicated to agricultural education. It offers various programs focused on modern farming techniques, soil science, irrigation systems, and agribusiness, helping students become skilled professionals in the agricultural sector.

Research, Training and Innovation

The college plays a crucial role in research

and farmer education. It develops improved crop varieties, conducts training programs for farmers, and promotes sustainable agricultural practices. Its efforts help bridge the gap between scientific research and practical farming.

Connection Between Talav and Agriculture

The proximity of Rajaram Talav to the Agriculture College provides practical learning opportunities for students. It acts as a live example of water management, irrigation planning, and environmental conservation, making education more effective and application-oriented.

Conclusion

Rajaram Talav and the Agriculture College together represent a perfect balance between nature and knowledge. While the Talav preserves water resources, the college ensures their efficient and sustainable use through education. Their combined contribution continues to inspire sustainable development and environmental responsibility.

*Shared by - **Rtn. Dr. Pooja Sasurkar***

Greetings

From -
ROTARY CLUB OF KOLHAPUR

Happy Birthday

- Rtn. Namrata Patankar - 27th April
- Rtn. Rtn. Abhijit Haval - 28th April
- Rtn. Shivajeet Benadikar - 3rd May

Happy Wedding Anniversary

- Rtn. Madan Bhandari - 27th April
- Rtn. Mahendra Parmar - 29th April
- Rtn. Kushal Rathod - 30th April
- Rtn. Sheetal Mahajan - 1st May
- Rtn. Krantikumar Patil - 2nd May
- Rtn. Deepak Charane - 2nd May
- Rtn. Sameer Waykool - 3rd May

NEXT MEETING

DATE:
Wednesday, 06th May 2026

TIME:
5:30 PM

GUEST

Rtn. Aditya Mishra

SUBJECT

Legacy Matters: Estate Planning and Financial Wisdom

All Ann's are requested to join the meeting.

Venue : Rotary Samaj Seva Kendra,
Shri. Madhav Prasad Goenka Bhavan, 3rd Floor,
Smt. Kamal Govind Gundesha Hall,
Rotary Samaj Seva Kendra, Kolhapur

wear the Rotary Pin with PRIDE

Professional Profile

GUEST

Rtn. Aditya Mishra

Aditya Mishra is an accomplished wealth management professional currently serving as Director at Spark Capital Private Wealth Management, bringing nearly two decades of experience in private wealth management and client relationship leadership across leading financial institutions. He has developed deep expertise in advising high-net-worth individuals and building long-term wealth management relationships. Prior to this role, he spent 14 years at Centrum Wealth, where he progressed from Senior Partner to Executive Partner, playing a key role in driving wealth solutions and client acquisition in the Pune region. Earlier, he worked for six years at HSBC as Vice President, managing HSBC Premier relationships and catering to the bank's affluent clientele. With strong capabilities in relationship management, wealth advisory, and client engagement, Aditya continues to deliver tailored financial solutions and lead growth in the private wealth management segment.

Rotary

GET IN TOUCH
ROTARY CLUB OF KOLHAPUR

WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5.30 PM

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