



Amigo

Friends In Service 33 YEARS Rotary Club of Bicholim



Issue No. 06

Volume XXXIII

DECEMBER 2025



R I President
Rtn Francesco Arezzo



District Governor
Rtn Arun Daniel Bhandare



President
Rtn Damodar S Prabhu



Secretary
Rtn Dr Jyoti S Sawant

AMIGO TEAM WISHES RCB FAMILY



Cheers to new beginnings and amazing adventures in 2026!
Wishing you a prosperous and joyful New Year.

CLUB PRESENTS VOCATIONAL EXCELLANCE AWARDS



Date : 12th November

On the occasion of Charter Day Celebration, Club presented Vocational Excellence Awards to four outstanding individuals from Bicholim Taluka

Seated from Left:
Shri Harichandra Chari, Shri Sonu Sawant, Shri Makarand Kamat, Shri Ramakant Shetkar

MEGA HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



Date : 29th November

42 Senior Citizens took benefit of Comprehensive General Health Check-up Camp organized by Club in collaboration with Community Health Center (CHC), Bicholim at Second Innings premises

GLIMPSES OF CHARTER NIGHT CELEBRATION HELD ON 12th NOVEMBER

OPENING FORMALITIES



President Rtn Damodar Prabhu, delivering the welcome address



Rtn Dr Jyoti Sawant presents Secretary Report of activities conducted by the Club in RIY 2025-26 through Audio-Visual Presentation

CHARTER GARLANDING AND LAMP LIGHTING CEREMONY



Rtn Tanvi Sawant garlanding the Charter to mark the celebration of Charter Night



AG Rtn Ramesh Tiwari lighting the traditional lamp during celebration of Charter Night



Charter Member Rtn Sudath Mandrekar lighting traditional lamp in presence of Charter Members and Dignitaries



Charter Members pose for a Group Photo along with President, Secretary, First Lady and the Invited Guests

FELICITATION OF CHARTER MEMBERS



Charter Member Rtn Arun Salkar accepting Special Pin from Chief Guest Rtn Tanvi Sawant



Chief Guest Rtn Tanvi honouring Charter Member Rtn Vallabh Salkar with a shawl



Charter Member Rtn Sagar Shetye pose for a photo with President, Secretary, AG Rtn Ramesh Tiwari and Chief Guest Rtn Tanvi Sawant after his felicitation

President Message



Dear Members of my RCB Family,

By the time, this issue of Amigo reaches the members of RCB, the first six months of the Rotary Year will be completed. Therefore, I would like to capture some innovative and noteworthy initiatives which Team-RCB were able to achieve in the first half of the Rotary Year. So here is the list of these top few initiatives:

During Installation Ceremony, we inducted five lady members in RCB which has helped to bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to our Club's functioning. Club now proudly boasts that lady members form 10% of our membership-a remarkable growth from 0% at the end of RIY 2021-22. This initiative has opened up new opportunities for these lady members, including professional networking and Avenues.

With Completion and Dedication of our First Global Grant Project at Keshav Seva Sadhana's Narayan Zantye School for Special Children, Bicholim, we have made notable effort in helping special children to develop faster so that they get back into main-stream. Club wanted to provide insights of this newly established facility to Rotarians of Districts and therefore decided to release a SPECIAL ISSUE of AMIGO on this maiden Global Grant Project-"SMITA-bringing smiles". This is the first time in the history of RCB that a Special Issue is released to celebrate implementation of a project.

Club handed over 10 Toilet Blocks Schools in Valpoi constructed under CSR project. The initiative ensures dignity, hygiene and better health for over 400 students, empowering them with safe sanitation facilities in schools.

Beside this, Club ensured that its members attend Major District Events in large numbers, which was evident when 35 members attended District Assembly at Hubballi and winning Runners-Up Trophy for the highest delegation. For the first time in RCB's history, Club felicitated Eight Charter Members in recognition of their contribution and service since the Club's inception.

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month on the Rotary Calendar. Rotary is dedicated to fighting and preventing disease. Disease Prevention and Treatment is one of Rotary's Six Area of Focus and one in which many of us would be aware of the numerous projects around the world supported by Rotary Clubs and the Foundation. Disease and illness result in pain and injury. Prolonged severe illness may result in loss of employment and income. It affects families. It affects quality of life. Hence Prevention is better than cure.

Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to wish all RCB family members "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year-2026" filled with health, wealth and joy.

-Rtn Damodar

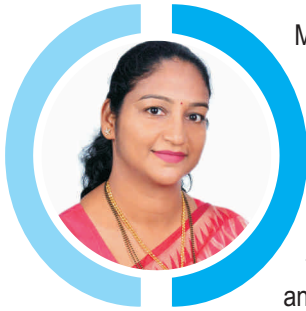
DECEMBER



Rotary

TAKE ACTION: Get Involved, Join Rotary

Secretary Report



Month of November is known for seasonal changes, like the arrival of cooler weather in many parts of India. This cool temperature is significant for blooming of certain flowers, such as red roses, tulips, and dahlias. Triggered by cooler temperatures, Mango trees flowers and this signals the start of fruit production.

This month also marked the start of wedding season in Goa after celebration of Tulsi Vivah in beginning of the month. Tulsi Vivah is a Hindu festival that symbolically marries the sacred Tulsi Plant (holy basil) to Lord Vishnu, represented by a Shaligram stone. One of the important days in November is **14th November**, which is celebrated as Children's Day in India to honour the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister. This day is also recognized globally as World Diabetes Day, which aims to raise awareness about diabetes.

For the members of RCB, this month provided us the opportunity to serve all the age groups. Club celebrated Children's Day, in a unique way wherein we took the students of Keshav Seva Sadhana's Narayan Zantye School for Special Children to a day outing at a scenic picnic spot "Nature Inn" located at Nanoda. For the school students, Club conducted Nutrition Awareness Programmes in two schools from Bicholim Taluka and concluded the month by organizing a General Health Camp for the Senior Citizens.

Below are the details of the projects/activities which were conducted by the Club in the month of November.

No of Weekly Meetings – 02

No of Board of Directors Meetings – 01 (On 26th November)

Girl Child Adoption for education:

On **11th November**, Club extended financial assistance to Miss Sakshi Kholkar, BA B.Ed student, under the Girl Child Adoption for Education initiative. An amount of ₹20,000/- was contributed and handed over to support her education. Following members contributed for this initiative – Rtn Mohandas, Rtn Damodar, Rtn Sagar, Rtn Parish, Rtn Durgesh, Rtn Prithviraj, Rtn Jeetendra, Rtn Ramanand and Rtn Anand.

Blood Donation Camp:

On **11th November**, Club organized Blood Donation Camp in association with Goa Medical College, Bambolim at Keshav Seva Sadhana's Narayan Zantye School for Special Children.

Total of 34 donors which included teachers, parents and well-wishers of school, voluntarily participated in this camp. This initiative was aimed at promoting community health and encouraging voluntary blood donation.

33rd Charter Day Celebration:

On **12th November**, Club celebrated its 33rd Charter Day at a colourful function organized at Hirabai Zantye Memorial Mini Hall. In a well-attended function, which included members of RCB family, Rotaractor's and Guests/Invitees, the Club used this platform to present four outstanding individuals from Bicholim Taluka with Vocational Excellence Awards.

Rtn Tanvi Atreya Sawant was Chief Guest and DG's Special Representative and AG Rtn Ramesh Tiwari was Guest of Honour for the function. The function began with garlanding the Charter by the Charter Members of the Club and Invited Guests.

This year, Club felicitated eight Charter Members of RCB for their immense contribution in starting the Rotary movement in our town and also for guiding the members since its inception, which has helped us to keep the flag of RCB flying with pride. Charter Members who were felicitated at the hands of Chief Guest were:

- ✓ Rtn Arun Salkar
- ✓ Rtn Vallabh Salkar
- ✓ Rtn Sagar Shetye
- ✓ Rtn Sudath Mandrekar
- ✓ Rtn Vijay Sardesai
- ✓ Rtn Vinayak Shirodkar
- ✓ Rtn Paresh Kadkade
- ✓ Rtn Mohandas Sawaikar

Keeping up the traditional practice of presenting the Vocational Excellence Awards during the Charter Day Celebration, the Club presented four outstanding individuals from Bicholim Taluka with this award. Those who were felicitated with Vocational Awards were:

- ✓ Shri Sonu Datta Sawant
(Vocation: Traditional Feni Distiller)
- ✓ Shri Ramakant Sambhaji Shetkar
(Vocation: Artist and Painter)
- ✓ Shri Harichandra Pandurang Chari
(Vocation: Carpenter)
- ✓ Shri Makarand Balkrishna Kamat
(Vocation: Teacher)

Release of November Issue of "Amigo":

November Issue of Amigo was released during the 33rd Charter Day Celebration (**12th November**) at the hands of Rtn Tanvi Atreya Sawant (Chief Guest and DG's Special Representative). The function was held at Hirabai Zantye Memorial Mini Hall, Bicholim and was also attended by our Assistant Governor Rtn Ramesh Tiwari.

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CHILDREN DAY CELEBRATION

Date : 14th November



As part of Children Day Celebration, a day picnic was organised for the Special Children of Keshav Seva Sadhana's Narayan Zantye School at "Nature Inn" located at Nanoda



Total of 134 participants, including students, teachers and staff, enjoyed the day's outing at this scenic picnic spot



"Let's get soaking wet" Special Children's along with their parents and teachers enjoy the swimming session at the pool



Special Children's enjoy games specially designed by the teachers of the school



60th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

President, Secretary and Club members joined Rtn Parish Khanolkar to celebrate his 60th birthday

Date : 8th November



President, Secretary and Club members visited residence of Charter Member Rtn Sudath Mandrekar to celebrate his 60th birthday

After his birthday celebration, Rtn Parish Khanolkar handed over a cheque to President Rtn Damodar for Community Service Projects



PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT EVENTS

Date : 22nd and 23th November

IPP Rtn Swapnil Dixit and Past President Rtn Sandip Sawant attended DTLS (District Team Learning Seminar) hosted by Rotary Club of Belur Dharwad



IPP VISITS RC-JAIPUR MAGIC

Date : 30th November

IPP Rtn Swapnil Dixit and Ann Anjali Dixit visited the Pink City of Jaipur and exchanged Club Flags with Rtn Dr Pravin Agarwal, Charter President of RC Jaipur Magic





Amigo

DECEMBER
2025



BLOOD DONATION CAMP



Total of 34 donors voluntarily participated in Blood Donation Camp organized by Club in association with Goa Medical College, Bambolim at Keshav Seva Sadhana's Narayan Zantye School for Special Children

BLOOD GROUP DETECTION CAMP

Date : 28th November



As a part of our commitment to Health and Community care, Blood Group Detection Camp was organized for the students of Radhakrishna Vidhayala, Bicholim. Totally 237 students were screened during this camp

NUTRITION AWARENESS PROGRAMME



"Nutrition Awareness Programme" was conducted in Radhakrishna Vidhayala, Bicholim from 10th to 15th November for six consecutive days

On concluding day, Quiz Competition was held and prizes were awarded to winners



Identical Programme was also conducted in Second Lieutenant J J Rane High School, Kudchire for consecutive six-days (10th to 15th November). On concluding day, Quiz Competition was held and prizes were awarded to winners



Charter Member Rtn Vallabh Salkar was felicitated at the hands of Chief Minister of Goa Dr Pramod Sawant for his contribution to Co-operative Sector in Goa during 8th Goa State Convention of Goa Pradesh Sahakar Bharati held at Pernem on 1st November



Congratulations to Annette Pratik Sagar Shetye for being awarded with Masters Degree in Product Design from renowned MIT-ADT University, Pune

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Rotary International Board has approved the following during its meeting in October 2025

- ◆ **District-3170 (India)** will be split into **District-3171** and **District-3172** with effect from 1st July 2027
- ◆ **District-3171 (India)** will consist of Clubs from States of Karnataka and Goa
- ◆ **District-3172 (India)** will consist of Clubs from State of Maharashtra

Secretary Report *Contd. from page 4*

Nutrition Awareness Programme:

Club conducted Nutrition Awareness Programme in two schools with help of an expert team wherein every day one session of one and half hours was held for consecutive six-days by this team.

The project was conducted with following objectives:

- ✓ Spread awareness about balanced diets and nutrients
- ✓ Educate students on the importance of dietary diversity and micronutrients
- ✓ Highlight preventive measures against lifestyle disorders
- ✓ Encourage students to adopt to healthier food and lifestyle Choices

During this month, Club covered following schools:

- ✓ Radhakrishna Vidhayala, Bicholim – From **10th November** to **15th November**, benefitting 167 students
- ✓ Second Lieutenant J J Rane High School, Kudchire - From **10th November** to **15th November**, benefitting 121 students

After the conclusion of the training programme, a Quiz Competition on the topics covered during training was conducted and prizes were awarded to the winners.

Children's Day Celebration:

To mark Children's Day (**14th November**), a day picnic was organised for the Special Children of Keshav Seva Sadhana's Narayan Zantye School at a scenic picnic spot "Nature Inn" located at Nanoda. Total of 134 participants, including students, teachers and staff, enjoyed the day's activities which included swimming, games etc along-with tasty food. Club expresses its gratitude to Rtn Samir Falari for initiating this innovative idea and generously sponsoring the venue.

Blood Group Detection Camp:

On **28th November**, as a part of our commitment to Health and Community care, Blood Group Detection Camp was organized for the students of Radhakrishna Vidhayala, Bicholim. Totally 237 students were screened during this camp. This initiative was aimed to help the students to know their blood group, which is essential during medical emergencies, for health records and for creating awareness about the importance of blood donation in future.

Mega Health Check-up Camp for Senior Citizens:

Club in collaboration with Community Health Center (CHC), Bicholim organised a Comprehensive General Health Check-up Camp for Senior Citizens at Second Innings located at Shetye Pride (5th Floor), Bicholim on **29th November**.

The camp was aimed at offering holistic, accessible, and preventive healthcare services to the elderly. A wide range of medical services were provided which included:

- ✓ General Medicine Consultation

- ✓ Ophthalmology (Eye Check-up)
- ✓ Dental Examination
- ✓ Ayurvedic Consultation
- ✓ Psychiatry Screening and Counselling
- ✓ Chest X-ray Services

Besides this, following Diagnostic Tests were conducted during the camp:

- ✓ Haemoglobin
- ✓ Blood Sugar Testing
- ✓ Blood Pressure Monitoring
- ✓ Sputum Analysis
- ✓ Breast Scan for Breast Cancer Screening

Participants were also given free medicines based on their assessments. 42 Senior Citizens took benefit of this camp.

This camp facilitated early detection, provided essential health education, and helped senior citizens access quality medical care at their doorstep. The initiative was well appreciated and further strengthened the Rotary Club of Bicholim's dedication to community welfare and senior citizen well-being.

Installation of Incinerator and Sanitary Napkin Dispenser:

On **1st December**, Club installed a Sanitary Napkin Incinerator and Sanitary Napkin Dispenser at Dr. K.B.S. Hedgewar High School, Valpoi, as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting menstrual hygiene management and ensuring a clean, safe, and supportive environment for girl students.

A total of 125 beneficiaries, including girl students and lady teachers, will directly benefit from this essential facility. This initiative aims at addressing proper disposal of sanitary waste and making menstrual hygiene products accessible within the school premises.

The total cost of the project is Rs 41,000, of which more than 50% amount is sponsored by Rtn Milind Shirodkar.

Participation and Representation:

District Team Learning Seminar:

IPP Rtn Swapnil Dixit and Past President Rtn Sandip Sawant attended DTLS (District Team Learning Seminar) at Dharwad which was hosted by Rotary Club of Belur Dharwad on **22nd and 23rd November**.

Visit to RC Jaipur Magic:

IPP Rtn Swapnil Dixit visited the Pink City of Jaipur and exchanged Club Flags with Rtn Dr Pravin Agarwal, Charter President of RC Jaipur Magic - RID 3056 on **30th November 2025**.

-Rtn Dr Jyoti Sawant



TRUE BLESSING

-Ann Dr Medha Vindesh Shirodkar

A few years ago, when a random Mumbai trip was planned.. as any other Lord Ganesh devotee, I had my goal set on visiting the famous Siddhivinayak temple.

Since the visit was squeezed among million other things to do list, it was meant to be hectic. Temple darshan with a toddler made it look impossible considering the devotees pouring in from all corners of the country.

But by His grace, everything went on smoothly. We felt content with the darshan and we stepped out of the temple premises after capturing a few memories in our cameras.

As we approached the police check point.. I could see somebody running towards me. I clutched my kid tightly and looked around. There was a lady, all sweaty, fighting to breathe, dishevelled hair and mumbling words I could hardly hear. I took a glance at her and I realised she is definitely some social worker. Finally, she uttered, पोलिओ दिला का? (Did you give Polio dose?)

Without even thinking a second I said, yes. I walked away, but I realised, it's Sunday! It might be the Polio Sunday! I went back to her and asked her, पोलिओ रविवारी आहे का? (Is today..a Polio Sunday?)

When she said yes, I told her, I will give the dose to my kid and she proceeded with her job. Very carefully she administered the drops and pacified the kid and left with a smile.

Just the way that lady took the matter of vaccination in her own hands.. I was astonished.. she didn't care about her appearance, the crowd that she combed through to reach me, nothing mattered to her. She did it voluntarily, it was an extraordinarily selfless act!

Polio seems like a thing of the past for people living in towns and cities. But we never realise how much effort goes into this Polio Eradication Drive. Simplifying the dosage to two drops per vaccine to reach the stage where a handful of cases are reported per year, had been a roller coaster ride in every way.

Fellowship Greetings

DECEMBER 2025

BIRTHDAY

22	Mon	Anjali d/o Annette Upesh D. Prabhu
22	Mon	Ann Samruddhi Sadashiv Dhond
23	Tue	Mayank s/o Durgesh Karapurkar
24	Wed	Rtn Vallabh Salkar
28	Sun	Ann Rehana Imtiaz Sheikh



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

16	Tue	Siddhi & Mangesh Salkar
19	Fri	Poonam & Sandesh Burye
27	Sat	Sandhya & Parish Khanolkar
31	Wed	Tarannum & Hussain Shah Muzawar



JANUARY 2026

BIRTHDAY

02	Fri	Rtn Sandip Desai
02	Fri	Padma d/o Smita Mardolkar
04	Sun	Ann Nilima Ramanand Natekar
09	Fri	Rtn Vijay Sardesai
09	Fri	Ann Neeta Narahari Sawant
13	Tue	Nikita d/o Sandeep Desai
14	Wed	Rtn Vishwas Sardesai
14	Wed	Rtn Swapnil Dixit



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

03	Sat	Dr. Anuja & Sachin Salkar
08	Thu	Shruti & Salil Sawal



Rotary has played a pivotal role in this, be its awareness, to funding Polio Vaccination or manufacturing or delivering it for free so that every child can be vaccinated. For many years, Rotary has been synonymous with Polio Vaccination. I remember as a kid seeing Rotary Polio Vaccination Booth on railway stations too so that the kids under 5 who are traveling can be vaccinated!!

But our fight against Polio is not over YET.

The way our health care workers, Doctors and nurses and the ground level personnel have joined hands with Rotary for Polio Vaccination Drive, we are not far from achieving our goal of 100% Polio Eradication.

Siddhivinayak blessed us in an unexpected way. I am very sure, the way Rotary has joined hands for Polio Vaccination Drive, it will be a true blessing to the million kids all around the world once we become Polio Free.

GLIMPSES OF CHARTER NIGHT CELEBRATION HELD ON 12th NOVEMBER

PRESENTATION OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLANCE AWARDS



Ramakant Sambhaji Shetkar
(Vocation: Artist and Painter)



Harichandra Pandurang Chari
(Vocation: Carpenter)



Sonu Datta Sawant
(Vocation: Traditional Feni Distiller)



Makarand Balkrishna Kamat
(Vocation: Teacher)

GUEST ADDRESSES



Rtn Tanvi Atreya Sawant (Chief Guest and DG's Special Representative) making an impactful and inspirational address



On behalf of Vocational Awardees, Shri Makarand Kamat expressing his gratitude to the members of RCB for the award

TIME FOR GROUP PHOTOS



Charter Members and Past Presidents of Rotary Club of Bicholim who served the Club with distinction pose for a Group Photo with Invited Guests



Charter Night was attended by the members of Rotaract Club of Bicholim who pose for a Group Photo with President and Secretary

RELEASE OF "AMIGO"



November Issue of Amigo was released at the hands of Rtn Tanvi Atreya Sawant (Chief Guest and DG's Special Representative)

CAKE CUTTING



Concluding part of Charter Night Celebration was Cake Cutting Ceremony which was lead by Charter Member Rtn Arun Salkar

MEGA HEALTH CAMP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



Club in collaboration with Community Health Center (CHC), Bicholim organised a comprehensive General Health Check-up Camp for Senior Citizens at Second Innings

Date : 29th November



42 Senior Citizens took benefit of this camp in which wide range of Medical Services and Diagnostic Tests were provided. In addition, free medicines were distributed to those who attended this camp

INSTALLATION OF SANITARY NAPKIN DISPENSER AND INCINERATOR



Date : 1st December



Club installed a Sanitary Napkin Incinerator and Sanitary Napkin Dispenser at Dr. K.B.S. Hedgewar High School, Valpoi, as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting menstrual hygiene management. This will benefit 125 girl students and lady teachers

ADOPTION OF GIRL CHILD FOR EDUCATION

Date : 11th November



Club provided financial help of Rs 20,000/- to Miss Sakshi Kholkar, BA B.Ed student. Members contributed for raising the requisite amount for this sponsorship